

Kuwait reiterates firm stand

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, hit by several bombings in recent years, said Saturday it would never yield to blackmail or allow any country to impose its policy on the country. The crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, told senior army officers at the Defence Ministry that Kuwait would "cut off any hand put out to stab us from the back. As much as we abstain from interfering in other countries' internal affairs, we will not allow any state to interfere in our affairs nor impose its policy on us."

Kuwait News Agency KUNA quoted Sheikh Saad as saying that "some believed that a bomb here or there would coerce the government of Kuwait to alter its policy and yield to blackmail. Whatever happens, we will never bend to such blackmail nor will we alter our policy." He paid tribute to security forces for their role during the Islamic summit conference which Kuwait hosted last month. Kuwait has weathered a spate of bombings in recent years including a failed suicide car-bomb attempt on the life of the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in May 1985.

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Sheikh Khalifa receives Prince Abdullah

DOHA (Petra) — Qatar's emir, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani, received at his palace in Doha on Saturday His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, who is now on a visit to Qatar. During the meeting, Sheikh Khalifa described Qatari-Jordanian relations as excellent and praised His Majesty King Hussein for his role at the Kuwait Islamic summit conference and his contribution to that conference's success. Prince Abdullah conveyed to the emir greetings from the King and wished Qatar further progress and prosperity. Several senior Qatari officials and Jordan's Ambassador to Qatar, Khalid Al Kayed, were present at the meeting.

Work under way on centre for nursing instructors

AMMAN (J.T.) — Preparations by the Health Ministry are under way for setting up a centre for training nursing instructors in the Kingdom at the cost of JD 4.5 million. A spokesman for the ministry said that several foreign experts were expected in the country soon to help carry out the project, which is designed to turn out nursing instructors at different nursing colleges specialising in primary health services and midwifery. The spokesman said that the Ministry of Health aims at making one nurse available in the country for every 1000 citizens.

Assad invited to visit Moscow

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has been invited to visit the Soviet Union, a presidential spokesman said Saturday. He told Reuters the written invitation from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was delivered by Karen Brutents, head of the Soviet Communist Party's International Relations Department. Mr. Assad replied to the message, but the spokesman did not indicate whether he had accepted.

French hostages released in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia on Saturday formally handed over to the French authorities 10 French aid workers who were released on Saturday by Somali rebels. The doctors and nurses who were kidnapped by the Somali National Movement (SNM) at Tug Wajale refugee camp in northwestern Somalia on Jan. 24 were handed over to French Ambassador Jose Paoli at a news conference in Addis Ababa. SNM acting Chairman Ibrahim Megad Semeter said their seizure "was not intended to bargain for their lives or to harm them, but to show the world the danger to foreigners of being in the area declared by the SNM as a war zone."

Qadhafi assails Reagan over arms

BOSTON (AP) — Colonel Muammar Qadhafi says President Ronald Reagan's "scandalous role" in the Iranian arms affair proves he is not qualified to lead the United States, according to a published report. "A real president wouldn't resort to behaving like a thief or a child," the Libyan leader said in an interview published Friday by the Christian Science Monitor.

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Qawasmeh assassin executed in Amman

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — A man convicted of the 1984 assassination of Fakh Qawasmeh, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official, has been hanged, the Interior Ministry announced Saturday.

A ministry spokesman said the death sentence against Nayef Khalil Al Bayed was carried out on Jan. 29, exactly 25 months after he shot dead the PLO Executive Committee member near his house in Amman.

The statement by the ministry spokesman, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Bayed, 28, was convicted and sentenced by a military court after he was found guilty of assassinating the PLO leader.

Mr. Qawasmeh, the 45-year-old former mayor of Hebron, was killed by three bullets from a silence-equipped pistol on Dec. 29, 1984, a month after he was elected member of the PLO's Executive Committee as head of the occupied territories' department.



Fakh Qawasmeh

Unconfirmed reports said two other men were convicted in the case — one got life imprisonment with hard labour and another received a 15-year sentence. AP said the three were believed to be members of the Fatah dissident group led by Colonel Saeed Musa (Abu Musa).

The Ministry of Interior said the court sentence was based on Bayed's "full confession to the crime, his re-enactment of the crime, the testimony of witnesses and a ballistics" test report proving that the bullet was fired by his (Bayed's) pistol.

The court sentence was ratified by the government. The ministry statement did not say why the announcement was delayed. The death sentence had been apparently handed down two months before its execution.

Reuters quoted Jordanian officials as saying that five other men had been sentenced to death in absentia and that two more were jailed for 20 years.

Ministry sources confirmed reports of the conviction of accomplices but would not give any details of the sentences.

Eyewitnesses told the Jordan Times at the time of Mr. Qawasmeh's murder that two assailants committed the crime with silence-equipped handguns and used a hand grenade which did not explode.

The victim's eight-year-old son

Muammar (then only six), witnessed his father's murder.

A reporter of Petra and his wife who were also witnesses to the assassination were slightly wounded when they tried to block the escape of the assassins. Shafiq Obeidat and his wife Ramiyeh were on their way to pick up their son from a childcare centre in the neighbourhood when they saw two persons throwing a grenade (which did not explode) and opening fire at the PLO leader with silence-equipped pistols. Attempting to block the escape of the assassins, Mr. Obeidat was shot in the hand and his wife in her leg.

Abu Dhabi's Al Itihad newspaper said last month that the assassins' hideout was discovered in Al Wahdat after 14 members of a dissident PLO group had been rounded up.

The paper said a Jordanian intelligence officer was killed and another wounded in a shootout between security forces and the suspected assassins who were later captured. There was no immediate confirmation of the paper's report.

Mr. Qawasmeh was deported by the Israeli occupation authorities for resisting the occupation and had since lived in Jordan.

Less than a week before Mr. Qawasmeh's murder, a bomb was discovered near the house of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's political advisor Hani Al Hassan in the same neighbourhood. It was defused minutes before it was set to go off.

Earlier on the day of his murder, Mr. Qawasmeh attended a meeting which named him as head of the PLO's side in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories.

400 kg of hashish seized

AMMAN (J.T.) — Police have seized 400 kilograms of hashish hidden in a container unloaded from an East German vessel in Aqaba on Jan. 29.

Colonel Hashem Al Qaisi, director of the Anti-Narcotics Department at the Public Security Department (PSD), said Saturday that the haul, the largest ever single shipment of its kind to be seized in Jordan, was estimated to have JD 2 million in street value.

Col. Qaisi said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the seizure proved that Jordan was determined to prevent any narcotics from entering its territory by air, land or sea, and that smugglers would not have any chance of pursuing their operations in the Kingdom.

Col. Qaisi said that the hashish seized at Aqaba was shipped from Lebanon and destined for one of the Arab countries adjacent to Jordan. It was aboard a container of 10.2 tonnes carrying household furniture and the hashish was inside cartons labelled "Super Chips," he said.

Investigations were continuing, he added.



Part of the 400-kilogramme haul of hashish seized by police at Aqaba port on Jan. 29 (Petra photo)

Col. Qaisi said that the number of drug users in Jordan dropped to 86 in 1986, down from 114 in 1985 following earlier seizures of drugs and the arrest of dealers and traffickers.

Col. Qaisi praised those who helped to impound the hashish haul at Aqaba and those who uncovered the case.

Col. Qaisi also named types of drugs seized in Jordan during the past year. He said these included 922 kilograms of hashish, nine

kilogrammes of opium, two kilogrammes of heroin, and one kilogramme of cocaine in addition to 15 syringes used by addicts and 2,695,172 drug pills.

He said a total of 286 people from Jordan and other nationalities were apprehended and found to have either used or sold drugs.

According to Col. Qaisi, there were 135 drug cases in the past year, and police impounded 27 vehicles used in drug smuggling operations.

S. Korean police put down protest rallies and hold 600

SEOUL (Agencies) — A massive show of strength by South Korean police thwarted plans on Saturday for nationwide protest rallies, but police and demonstrators battled in at least four cities.

In Seoul, Kwangju, Pusan and Taegu, witnesses said, riot police fired tear gas at thousands of protesters who retaliated with stones, petrol bombs and other missiles.

The protests were called after the death of student activist Park Chong-Chol in police custody last month. Demonstrators shouted: "Murderous government, revive Park Chong-Chol." "Away with military dictatorship." "Long live democracy."

More than 30,000 police used tear gas to keep 3,000 demonstrators away from the Seoul's Myeongdong Catholic cathedral, where about 400 clergymen and lay people held a memorial mass for Park.

He was throttled when two policemen forced his head into a

bathtub while questioning him about alleged radical activities.

More than 600 protesters, including about a dozen opposition members of parliament, were arrested nationwide, witnesses said.

They said at least two police officers and a police van were set on fire in Seoul.

A police spokesman said scores of police were injured in the clashes near Myeongdong cathedral.

Witnesses said many worshippers wept as Father Moon Jong-Hyon, a member of the Catholic commission for Peace and Justice, told the congregation: "The current regime should step down after truly repenting of their atrocities and faithfully apologising to the entire nation."

A government official said demonstrators attempted to hold rallies at 65 places across the nation but most were thwarted by a massive show of police strength.

Palestinians demand permits for families to join them

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — About 100 Palestinians carrying photographs of their loved ones protested in front of a Jerusalem police station on Saturday against Israel's refusal to let their families join them in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Holding hands to form a human chain, the Palestinians said they wanted to be reunited with their relatives who have been refused residency in the territories by Israeli authorities.

Israel's refusal to let their relatives join them is seen as part of an attempt to keep down the number of Palestinians in the territories and encourage emigration.

"The Israelis are trying to drive us to desperation so we will leave. That is why they refuse to give our families permits," said Jamal Barjouth.

He said his Soviet-born wife, whom he married while studying in the Soviet Union, and his

Berri offers to free Israeli pilot in return for hostages and detainees

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia leader Nabih Berri offered on Saturday to exchange an Israeli airman captured by his men last year for 400 Palestinians held by Israel whose freedom is demanded by hostage holders in Lebanon.

He also told a news conference he expected British church envoy Terry Waite, missing in Lebanon and believed kidnapped, would be freed "very soon" but did not elaborate.

"I propose to exchange the Israeli airman in our captivity for the Palestinians held by Israeli authorities, if Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine agrees to the release of the four professors," Mr. Berri said.

"I appeal to the abductors — either those of Waite or the American professors — to release them forthwith."

Mr. Berri also said: "I undertake to work for the freedom of 400 Palestinians and other Lebanese prisoners held in Israeli jails in exchange for the release of the Israeli airman held by Amal."

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine has threatened to kill its hostages — three American professors and an Indian colleague — on Monday if Israel does not free the Palestinians.

Israel has rejected the demand. U.S. professors Jesse Turner, Robert Polhill and Alan Steen, as well as Indian academic Mithileshwar Singh, were seized on the campus of Beirut University College on Jan. 24 by gunmen disguised as policemen.

Mr. Waite disappeared in west Beirut Jan. 20 for secret negotiations with kidnappers of two other Americans.

Islamic Jihad, a group of pro-

Iranian Shi'ite fundamentalists have held journalist Terry Anderson and educator Thomas Sutherland, since 1985.

"I have information that Mr. Waite will be freed within 48 hours at most," Mr. Berri told a news conference in the Syrian capital.

He said: "This information comes from friends." He declined to elaborate.

Mr. Berri negotiated the release of 39 American passengers held for 17 days by extremists who hijacked an American Trans World Airlines plane to Beirut in June 1985.

The hijackers demanded that Washington pressure Israel to free more than 750 Palestinian and Lebanese held without charge in Israel's Adit prison.

All these detainees were later freed. But Israel denied the re-

lease were linked to the hijack. Addressing the hostage-holders, Mr. Berri said: "Free all the hostages of all nationalities whom I am sure are innocent and I will take it upon myself to negotiate on your behalf all your demands like I did during the TWA hijack."

Mr. Berri did not say whether he has made an effort to intervene in the deepening hostage crisis, or whether he has been asked by foreign governments to step in as he did during the TWA drama.

Mr. Berri said he had asked all Palestinian groups to supply him with lists of Palestinians in Israeli jails whom they wanted to exchange for the Israeli airman.

He said he made his offer from a humanitarian angle and not

(Continued on page 3)

'Camps war' rages without let-up

Starving Bourj Al Barajneh residents ask for Islamic permission to eat human flesh

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese Shi'ite Amal militiamen and Palestinian fighters fought around two besieged refugee camps in Beirut on Saturday. Police said six people were killed and 27 wounded.

The thuds of exploding shells echoed across the city as the battles, waged with artillery, mortars and tanks, raged at the shantytowns of Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh.

Police said gunners of Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal militia pounded the two camps with a

barrage of fire from Soviet-made T-54 tanks and U.S. manufactured M-48 tanks.

Artillery batteries in the central Lebanese mountains overlooking Beirut, manned by fighters of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), fired howitzers at Shi'ite slums surrounding the camps, police added.

Radio Beirut interrupted its programmes at mid-morning to announce that the Shi'ite-populated districts of Jnah, Bir Hassan and Ouzai south of Beirut

"are being subjected to a fierce barrage from 120-mm mortars positioned in the mountains."

Police said Amal militiamen and Palestinian fighters traded hit-and-run assaults at Bourj Al Barajneh, home for 35,000 Palestinian refugees.

At the United Nations, the PLO observer to the world body said Friday Palestinian refugees in the Bourj Al Barajneh camp had asked Muslim leaders for permission to eat human flesh

(Continued on page 3)

Iraqis press home raids on all fronts

BAHRAIN (R) — Waves of Iraqi warplanes pressed home raids on seven Iranian towns on Saturday as well as military camps in northern Iran and on shipping in the Gulf.

A Baghdad military communiqué said the towns of Qom, Karbala, Tabriz, Esfahan, Arak, Marivan and Pol-e Dokhtar all came under attack from several formations of Iraqi jets.

It said two military camps were hit at the north Iranian towns of Khaneh and Baneh where ammunition dumps were blown up, equipment was wrecked and many troops were killed.

A surface-to-air Hawk missile base in the south Iranian town of Khorramshahr was destroyed in

another attack, the communiqué said.

Warjets scored an accurate and effective hit on a "large naval target" — taken to mean a tanker or merchant vessel — in the Gulf, it added.

Regional shipping sources had no immediate reports to confirm the strike.

Tehran Radio reported civilians wounded in the Baneh and Marivan attacks.

The statement called on Iranian citizens to stage mass rallies on Feb. 11 — anniversary of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution — to show continued support for the war despite the heavy toll from Iraqi raids.

Iran says at least 3,000 people

have died and 9,000 have been injured in air attacks over the past four weeks.

Iraq has reported around 300 civilians killed and more than 1,000 wounded by Iranian artillery bombardment over the same period, apart from unspecified casualties from nine missile attacks on Baghdad.

Baghdad spokesmen said the Iraqi warplanes all returned to base.

Iran's national news agency IRNA claimed one, a Soviet-built Sukhoi-22, was shot down east of Basra where ground forces have been involved in heavy fighting since Iran launched a cross-border thrust on Jan. 9.

NAAA: U.S. contingency plans provide for detention of Arabs

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — An Arab-American group has made public what it said was a U.S. anti-terrorism contingency plan that would target Arab aliens for detention camps.

U.S. officials said the leaked documents did not constitute a contingency plan but amounted only to a search for ideas on what could be done in a terrorism emergency.

David Sadd, executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), said the detention of a group of Palestinians on Jan. 27 in Los Angeles on charges of immigration violations showed the programme was already being implemented.

"Under the guise of an anti-terrorism programme, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) is attempting to turn back the clock to the days of the Japanese internment during World War Two," he said.

Some 120,000 Japanese-Americans were interned during that war. The U.S. government has made payments of compensation for unjust imprisonment to surviving internees.

A U.S. television network quoted INS officials as saying the INS documents that Mr. Sadd released were not a plan but rather a collection of proposals developed for possible action if widespread terrorist attacks began in America.

The documents included proposals that federal investigative

agencies provide the INS with lists of names of "alien undesirable and suspected terrorists" so that the agency could either keep them out of the United States or detain them in an emergency.

A document titled "Alien Terrorists and Undesirables: A Contingency Plan" said any aliens charged with terrorist activity should be held without bond and the government should request they be tried in secret in the interest of national security.

It said: "The service will likely be required to concentrate its counterterrorism efforts against particular nationalities or groups." But it also said the individual members of those groups who are a threat to U.S. security should be isolated. The document did not specify nationalities.

A separate "Border Patrol Contingency Plan" said there were facilities for 4,179 detainees and in the worst case temporary shelters could be set up near the Oakland alien detention centre in Louisiana for another 5,000 in two to four weeks.

The wording did not suggest

any plan to set up such a facility. On Jan. 27, INS agents arrested nine people, including eight Palestinians, in the Los Angeles area on charges they violated immigration regulations.

They were arrested after an FBI investigation failed to turn up evidence of plans to commit criminal or terrorist acts, law enforcement sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, have said. Those arrested face deportation proceedings.

Mr. Sadd and NAAA official Michael Johns detailed what they said had been mistreatment of the arrested Palestinians. Mr. Sadd characterised the arrests as a "Gestapo-like roundup."

Mr. Johns said the defendants were placed in leg irons and, following a morning arrest, were not given food or water until 4 o'clock that afternoon.

The lights were left on in their cells all night, making it difficult for them to sleep and they were held in solitary confinement for the first two days, said Mr. Johns. The defendants now are placed two to a cell at a detention facility, the association said.

Oh! There is something special in Monday's Jordan Times. Of course yes. It takes you to the world of cars.

France redeploys Chad force nearer to 'red line'

PARIS (R) — France has begun redeploying its 1,400-man military force in Chad, setting up bases nearer the north of the country where Chadian government troops are fighting Libyan forces, defence sources said.

They said French troops and anti-aircraft systems were being moved to Abeche and Biltine in east central Chad and other areas but stressed that the redeployment would not take French forces north of the strategic so-called "red line."

No details of the number of men or type of equipment involved in the operation were available.

The demarcation line along the 16th parallel has effectively divided Chad since 1983 between the government-controlled south and vast northern desert regions largely held by Libya and Chadian guerrillas.

Libya's hold on the north has been seriously dented, however, by a northwards offensive begun last December by forces loyal to Chadian President Hissene Habre.

The French redeployment follows reports, confirmed by French officials, of a major build-up of Libyan troops in northern Chad and signs of a new Libyan ground offensive on Chadian

positions in the north western

Tibesti region.

The northwards movement of French forces continues a process begun last month with the establishment of a small but important logistical support base along the red-line at the town of Kalait, north of Abeche.

The sources said the new redeployment would strengthen the deterrent effect of France's force, known as Operation Sparrowhawk, and discourage any Libyan attacks south of the "red line".

Libyan bombers have made two largely ineffective airstrikes in the south in January.

The French force, sent in a year ago to help Chad block a southwards drive by Libyan and rebel forces, has until now been largely concentrated in the capital of N'Djamena and a base at Moussoro in the central Western region of the country.

Its main components are a Cro-

talet anti-aircraft system installed to protect the capital's airport and a powerful force of Mirage and Jaguar fighter-bombers.

Chad has repeatedly asked France to join its forces in direct combat with Libya in the north and to provide air cover north of the 16th parallel.

Paris, however, has stressed that it will not draw into a head-on clash with Libyan forces despite signs of a massive Libyan build-up in the north.

Chad reported that Libya had boosted its strength in Chad to 20,000 men, twice the size of its estimated force a month ago.

Tripoli denies having troops stationed permanently in the country but the scores of captured Libyan prisoners and other evidence appear to rebut the claim.

Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond told French radio Tripoli was massing troops in the desert and mountain wastes of northern Chad, saying that new fighting looked likely.

He pledged continued logistical support to Mr. Habre's government, which is fighting Libyan and rebel guerrillas in two battle zones, the Tibesti Mountains and the north eastern desert area around the formerly Libyan-held oasis of Fada.

But he added: "We will avoid everything that could lead to direct confrontation or an escalation."

Iranian opposition protests against arms sales

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of demonstrators opposed to Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini marched in Washington, vowing to overthrow his government.

"We shall fight, we shall win," chanted the men and women as they walked, sometimes 10 abreast, through the downtown area several blocks from the White House.

Police estimated the crowd at 2,000, but organisers put the figure at between 3,000 and 3,500.

The marchers, many of whom were Iranian exiles, came from around the United States.

Some carried placards referring to recent revelations that the United States had secretly shipped arms to Khomeini's government in an effort to free American hostages in Lebanon and open channels of communication with moderates.

"Arms help war, not hostages," one sign said.

The march was organised by the followers of Massoud Rajavi, an Iranian resistance leader who lives in Iraq. Iran and Iraq have been at war for nearly seven years.

Freed Italian hostages return home

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Two Italian hostages released by their Ethiopian rebel captors after more than month's trek through the jungles of north western Ethiopia left for Rome on Saturday, the Italian embassy reported.

An embassy official who refused to let his name be used said Dino Marteddu and Giorgio Marchio, technicians with the Salini Construction Co., were in good spirits when they were turned over to the embassy Friday night.

The Italians and eight Ethiopians working on an Italian-financed road project in northern Ethiopia were seized on Dec. 27 after a bloody firefight between soldiers guarding the project and guerrillas of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Army. Forty people, mainly government soldiers, were reported killed in the battle.

The embassy official said the hostages walked every day after their kidnapping near Lake Tana in north western Ethiopia until they reached a border post south of the south eastern Sudan town of Gedaref last week.

From there, they took a Land-Rover 500 kilometres to Khartoum, he said.

The hostages told an Italian reporter the group changed positions almost every day during their time in the forests but had time for fishing and hunting with their own firearms.

U.S. arms seen as big boost to Iranian war effort

WASHINGTON (R) — Weapons, spare parts and other items supplied by the Reagan administration have boosted Iran's fighting capabilities in its six-year-old Gulf war with Iraq, independent U.S. analysts say.

This view contradicts the assertion of President Reagan, who says the 1985-86 covert U.S. operation was aimed at improving relations with Iran, helping bring "an honourable end" to the Iran-Iraq war and freeing American hostages in Lebanon.

In a television address on Nov. 13, Mr. Reagan said he had authorised the transfer of small amounts of defensive weapons and spare parts for defensive systems to Iran.

"These modest deliveries, taken together, could easily fit into a single cargo plane. They could not, taken together, affect the outcome of the six-year war between Iran and Iraq — nor could they affect in any way the military balance between the two countries," he said.

Mr. Reagan's view is predictably contested by Iraq, which is fighting to defend against Iranian

attacks.

Kamal Issa, spokesman for the Iraqi embassy in Washington, told Reuters the 2,008 Tow anti-tank missiles, parts for 238 Hawk anti-aircraft missile systems and other spares that the administration said selling to Iran were neither small in quantity nor defensive in nature.

"It's not a plane load," he told Reuters. "It's not defensive because when Iran is on the offensive anything supplied is an offensive weapon. Iraq has the edge in tanks and in the air, so any supply that could contribute to a lessening of that edge gives Iran the advantage."

Private U.S. Gulf war experts who have been monitoring the new Iranian thrust at the southern city of Basra argue over the extent to which the arms might make a difference in the deadlocked fighting but they share officially expressed fears of an Iranian victory that could swamp the Arab oil states of the Gulf in a tidal wave of anti-Western revolution.

Retired Admiral Eugene Carroll of the private Centre for

Defence Information in Washington told Reuters everything the United States provided was fully selected by Iran for maximum effectiveness on its combat readiness and capability.

Israeli arms dealer Yaacov Nimrodi, who has been involved in the secret operation, was quoted in the New York Times as saying the Iranians "had to have 500 Tow missiles immediately to deal with the Iraqi tanks."

According to the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies, at the latest count Iraq had some 4,500 main battle tanks compared with up to 1,000 for Iran and 500 combat aircraft against Iran's possible 68.

But Iran has a population of 45 million compared with Iraq's 15 million and its troops, spurred by revolutionary fire, are noted for their "human wave" assaults against Iraqi guns.

Adm. Carroll said the 2,008 Tows, even if they destroyed only one tank in 10 fired at, clearly helped Iran repel the Iraqi armour. He cited reports of more Iranian F-4 and F-14 warplanes

and Cobra attack helicopters, which he believed grounded for lack of U.S. parts, seen in action.

"It is impossible to state whether this (the U.S. supplies) puts the Iranians in a winning position. It certainly makes them much more efficient," he said.

Robin Wright, a regional expert with the private Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said the U.S. arms "clearly made a difference" but probably were not decisive.

Gary Sick, Iran adviser to President Jimmy Carter and now with the private Ford Foundation, said Iran's air defences had improved, its troops had demonstrated a new capacity to hit Iraqi armour and its air force was flying more missions.

David-Bar Ilan of the Jonathan Institute in New York, an Israeli-connected private military specialist organisation, said he would characterise the impact of the arms themselves on the war as "not insignificant but marginal."

U.S. lacks military options to aid hostages in Lebanon, officials say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite the recent buildup of U.S. naval forces in the Mediterranean, Washington has almost no military options to aid the eight Americans held hostage in Lebanon, government officials say.

"There is not a lot we can do to help the hostages," one Pentagon source acknowledged privately.

U.S. naval activity off Lebanon tapered off Friday, although two Marine assault groups remained in the area.

One of two aircraft carrier task forces suspended its patrol of the waters off Lebanon, while a three-ship Mediterranean amphibious ready group carrying 1,900 Marines had linked up with a five-ship force carrying a similar number of Marines south of the island of Crete.

During the buildup of the last two weeks, Pentagon and White House officials said they planned no military strike but wanted to be prepared for possible retaliation if the kidnappers began executing hostages.

Mixed U.S. record in Mideast

The fleet might also be used to evacuate several hundred U.S. citizens who remained in Lebanon, Pentagon officials said.

The U.S. military record in the region has been mixed in recent years.

In 1980, an American mission to rescue U.S. hostages in Tehran failed, and three years later, 241

Marines died when their barracks were bombed in Beirut.

The U.S. government had better luck in 1985, using navy warplanes to divert an airliner carrying the hijackers of the Achille Lauro cruise ship. And last year, U.S. forces outgunned Libya in air and naval attacks.

The situation in Lebanon does not invite the same kind of intervention practised by U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who in July 1958 landed Marines to help Lebanese President Camille Chamoun prevail in a civil war.

By 1983, when President Ronald Reagan sent Marines to join an international peacekeeping force in Lebanon, civil war had all but destroyed any semblance of government.

Overriding the objections of the Marine commander on the ground, Col. Timothy Geraghty, the White House ordered a naval bombardment of anti-government forces in September 1983, according to Pentagon sources.

The naval bombardment, which claimed some civilian casualties, raised anti-American sentiment in Lebanon. And that hostility was responsible, in part, for the subsequent bombing of the Marine barracks and the wave of kidnappings.

The exact location of the hostages in Lebanon is not known, according to Reagan administration officials, and even a commando raid against a specific site

might cause the kidnappers to kill their captives before they could be freed.

A naval bombardment or air strike against Lebanon, similar to those of late 1983, likely would hit civilian targets and serve little purpose other than to deepen local hostility toward Washington, Pentagon officials said.

U.S. buildup causes concern

The U.S. buildup has caused some concern in the Middle East and in Western Europe.

Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans said he raised the issue in a meeting Friday with Secretary of State George P. Shultz, but did not ask directly about U.S. military plans.

"I thought that for me it (would be) rather undiplomatic to ask that question of Mr. Shultz, because he's not responsible for military action," said Mr. Tindemans.

He noted that some West European nations had tried to talk the United States out of its air raid against Libya last year, and described that attack as "a source of frustration."

Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims said the current buildup was meant to show U.S. concern "about rising tension in the Gulf and Middle East" as fighting continued in the Iran-Iraq war and Americans remained hostage in Lebanon.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77111-19	
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15:30	Koran
15:55	Programme Review
16:05	Heath Cliff
16:25	A Whole World of Children
17:00	Rising in All
17:30	Candid Camera
18:15	Local Agricultural Programme
18:40	Arabic Series
19:20	Local Programme
19:50	Programme Review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:30	Local Programme
21:55	Tomorrow's programmes
22:00	TV Magazine (local)
23:00	News in Arabic
23:10	Arabic Series
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Les 5 dernières minutes
17:50	News in French
19:15	La Vallée des Peupliers
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:50	Arabic Series
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Who's the Boss
21:10	The Day the Universe Changed (documentary)
22:00	News in English
22:20	Magnum
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 560 KHz, SW	
Tel. 77111-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	News
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:30	Pop Session
11:00	In Concert
12:00	News Summary
12:30	Pop Talk
13:00	News Summary
13:30	Pop Session contd.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Instrumentals
15:00	Science Report
15:30	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:30	Instrumentals
17:00	Old Favourites
17:30	Listeners' Choice
18:00	News Summary
18:30	Jazz Hour
19:00	News
19:30	News
19:50	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:30	Evening Show continued
21:55	News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* An exhibition of photos from Pompeii and Herculaneum at the Jordan Cultural Centre (until Feb. 12).	
* An art exhibition by Spanish artist Patricia Vico at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Feb. 12).	
* An exhibition of photographs depicting sports activities in the Soviet Union at the Sports Cultural Centre.	
WESTERN FOLK ART	
* The American Centre is presenting a Western Folk art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre. The folk art exhibition runs through Feb. 10.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267	
American Centre .. 64371	
British Council .. 6361478	
French Cultural Centre .. 63709	
Goethe Institute .. 64193	
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 64203	
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 62409	
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 63777	
Hayat Art Centre .. 66195	
Jordan Youth City .. 667816	
Y.W.C.A. .. 64173	
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111	
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal' (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport (Tel. 08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
09:00	Agaba (RJ)
09:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:25	Jeddah (RJ)
10:00	Kuwait (RJ)
10:30	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30	Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
10:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:30	Athens (RJ)
10:30	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
10:30	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
10:30	London, Geneva (RJ)
10:30	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
10:30	Paris (RJ)
10:30	Baghdad (RJ)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
02:25	Bucharest (RO)
02:30	Berlin, Larnaca (IF)
02:30	Jeddah (SV)
02:30	Cairo (MS)
02:30	Kuwait (LV)
02:30	Baghdad (LA)
02:30	Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
02:30	Kuwait (KU)
02:30	Dubai (EK)
02:30	Jeddah (SV)
02:30	Sana'a (YH)
MONEY EXCHANGE	
Saturday rates	
Belgian franc	88.1/ 89
French franc	161.6/ 163.1
Italian lira	25.6/ 25.9
Japanese yen (for 100)	219.9/ 222.4
Swiss crown	51.9/ 52.3
Swiss franc	216/ 218.5
U.S. sterling pound	511.2/ 516.7
U.S. dollar	339.7/ 342.2
W. German mark	182.1/ 184
PRAYER TIMES	
05:02	(Sunset) Doha
05:22	(Sunset) Doha
11:50	Dhuhur
14:52	Asr
17:18	Maghreb
18:38	Isha
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
A drop in temperature is expected. Clouds will appear at intervals, with chances for scattered showers associated with thunder activities at times especially in the northern and central parts of the country. Winds will be southerly moderate to fresh. In Agaba, it will be hazy and partly cloudy, with chances for thunderstorms. Winds will be southerly fresh and rough sea.	
DEPARTURES	
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
06:45	Agaba (RJ)
07:00	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:30	Athens (RJ)
11:30	Cairo (RJ)
11:30	Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:30	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
11:30	Baghdad (RJ)
11:30	Jeddah (RJ)
11:30	Damascus (RJ)
11:30	Cairo (RJ)
11:30	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
11:30	Bangkok (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
EMERGENCIES	
Amman governorate .. 691228	
Amman Civil Defence .. 198, 199	
Civil Defence Irbid .. 71293, 72313	
Civil Defence Jericho .. 70733	
Civil Defence Qadisiya .. 5788	
Ambulance .. 193, 77511	
Amman downtown fire brigade .. 198	
First aid .. 630341	
Blood bank .. 773203	
Civil Defence rescue .. 61111	
Fire headquarters .. 62090-3	
Police rescue .. 192, 621111, 63777	
Police headquarters .. 639141	
Traffic police .. 896391	
Electric Power Co. .. 624881	
Municipal water complaints .. 771258	
Queen Alia Intl. Airport .. 08/533040	
GENERAL	
Jordan Television .. 7711119	
Radio Jordan .. 7711119	
Ministry of Tourism .. 642311	
Hotel complaints .. 666412	
Price complaints .. 661176	
Telephone information .. 12	
Jordan and Middle East call .. 10	
Overseas calls .. 17	
Repair service .. 11	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Tayser Khader .. 606857	
Dr. Mohamed Al-Badri .. 78959	
Salem pharmacy .. 636730	
Norokh pharmacy .. 723672	
Khalaf pharmacy .. 778653	
Firas pharmacy .. 661912	
Sabah pharmacy .. 668066	
IRBID:	
Dr. Subhi Hamdan .. 240194	
Walwan pharmacy .. 81857	
Abul taxi .. 621127	
Hayam taxi .. 817411	
Balansh taxi .. 845120	
Bahran taxi .. 773034	
Mashhour taxi .. 896743	
ZARQA:	
Dr. Fayez Abdul Aziz .. 953299	
Amari pharmacy .. 81857	
Al Adham pharmacy .. 81857	
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple (all kinds)	200 / 240
Banana	320 / 360
Leamon	140 / 160
Marrow	120 / 140
Beans	180 / 200
Onion (dry)	180 / 200
Onion (green)	180 / 200
Orange (Abu Surra)	270 / 300
Orange (Shamouna)	210 / 240
Pepper (green)	320 / 360
Potato	200 / 220
Raddish	180 / 200
Spinach	90 / 100
Tomatoes	170 / 190
Turnip	100 / 120

Dustour reports shipment of plane parts to Iran

AMMAN (AP) — Spare parts for U.S.-built warplanes were shipped to Iran last month from South Korean and West German arms dealers, a Jordanian newspaper said Saturday.

In a dispatch from London, the Arabic-language Al-Dustour quoted "informed diplomatic sources" as saying the shipment was carried out "without the intervention of the American government."

It gave no figures or specifics on the cash value, amount of parts or their specific nature.

"There is no sign that American officials were directly involved in this deal, and it was not clear whether the American administration had authorised the new sales or knew of it," said the report.

The daily quoted the sources as saying Israeli arms dealers, who were involved in previous arms shipments to Iran last year, did not take part in the January sale.

It added that arms were purchased for Iran by West German and South Korean dealers.

The paper provided no names and only said the shipment comprised spare parts for planes.

The Iranian air force, trimmed to some 60 U.S.-made aircraft by years of war and by a spare parts embargo, is outnumbered by Iraq's air force by about 6-1 ratio.

The White House last year shipped arms to Iran, which has been at war with Iraq since 1980, thus violating an embargo Washington has imposed on arms sales to Iran.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King condolences Hweitat, Jazi tribes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday deputed his advisor for tribal affairs and the director of the Badia police Sharif Fawwaz Zaben Abdullah to convey the King's condolences to Al Hweitat and Al Jazi tribes on the passing away of Sheikh Jadoo' Mohammad Al Odat. The late Sheikh Jadoo', 80, died on Friday in Al Hussein town of Ma'an Governorate.

Ministry supports health awareness scheme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry has expressed full support for health information project being carried out by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the educational development academy in Peru.

Seminar on chemicals slated for Feb. 16

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Khaled Al Haj Hassan will open a three-day seminar on the transportation and handling of chemical substances at the Amman Chamber of Industry on Feb. 16. The seminar, organised by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), will discuss working papers on pollution which might be caused by chemical substances, storing chemicals and safety measures. The seminar which is being held in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), will also discuss the safe disposal of chemicals.

Soviet photo exhibition underway

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of photographs by a Soviet artist and photographer working for Soviet News Agency TASS is currently underway at the Soviet Cultural Centre in Amman. On display are photographs depicting various sports activities and programmes in the Soviet Union.

Amman falls behind in its project completion target

AMMAN (Petra) — Out of 149 projects slated for the Amman urban region in the past year, only 15 have been carried out and 62 others are underway, the Amman Urban Development Council was told at a meeting on Saturday.

The figures were read out by Dr. Abdul Ilah Abu Ayyash, the director of regional planning at the Ministry of Planning, who said that JD 120 million had been allocated for these projects, of which JD 94 million had been earmarked for projects to be carried out by the public sector. A total of JD 45 million had actually been spent on projects which have been carried out or are in the pipeline. Dr. Abu Ayyash continued. He noted that the money which had been spent went mostly on social services schemes (JD 32 million) and infrastructure projects (JD 10 million).

Referring to projects within Amman Governorate, he said that JD 30 million had been spent last year on development projects and that the Greater Amman area had been allocated the lion's share for these schemes with an allocation of JD 11 million. Sabab and Muwaqqar together received JD 2.5 million, Madaba JD 1 million and Na'our JD 25,000, he added.

The meeting, which was chaired by Mr. Mohammad Jariri, the acting mayor of Amman, was attended by Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning Ziyad Fariz, who said that the purpose of the meeting was to review development projects carried out by the public sector in 1986 as part of Jordan's 1986-90 five-year development plan.

He said that the Ministry of Planning was keen on following up on the implementation of different projects within the plan. The ministry is now building up a system through which it will be able to follow up on the implementation of economic and social projects, in addition to regional development schemes, Dr. Fariz said.

Dr. Fariz underlined the importance of a newly-created regional development fund in helping to carry out such projects.

Queen visits institute for child health, development

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday visited the Institute for Child Health and Development in Sweileh, established in 1986 by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in cooperation with Rada Barnen (the Swedish Save the Children Organisation).

The Queen toured the institute's three operational units for mother and child health care, child development and research and documentation. Queen Noor was briefed on the institute's programmes which assess the physical and psycho-social development of children under the age of six and offer treatment and counselling as well as instruction to families about new diagnostic and preventive measures.

Queen Noor discussed with the staff the present plan of action and future projects at the institute. These include the establishment of a mobile unit to spread the institute's new health-monitoring techniques and treatment methods by offering workshops and training courses; and the health education and media unit which will develop educational

and informational material for health workers and parents about the early detection, prevention and treatment of child disabilities.

With three Swedes and a local team of 10 Jordanians, the institute began offering its services to families as of Nov. 1, 1986. To date, it has assessed the development of 244 children and has referred 24 cases to its child development unit for further monitoring and treatment.

The director of the institute, Dr. Stephan Jansen who attended the meeting, noted that the institute hoped to develop assessment techniques, unique to Jordan to benefit all Jordanian children under six years of age.

Another speaker at the meeting was Minister of Health Zaid Hamzah who discussed the ministry's enthusiastic support for the institute's goal to develop primary health care techniques and treatment methods.

Present at the meeting were NHF director general, Mrs. In'am Al Mufti, members of the national preparatory committee of the institute

Contractors' law tops Monday's Senate agenda

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) will meet on Monday to discuss amendments introduced by its legal committee on Jordan's first-ever contracting law. The legislation was unanimously endorsed by the Lower House on Jan. 6.

Although the Senate meeting will legislate other draft laws, observers believe the session will witness a heated debate on whether or not the Senate should refer the 1986 contracting law to the Lower House's legal committee to pave the way for deputies to either incorporate or refuse the Senate modifications to the law.

The law was drafted to boost the country's ailing construction sector and to grant the Jordanian Contractors' Association (JCA) an upper hand in organising the contracting sector.

Under the law, Jordanian and foreign contracting companies operating in the Kingdom will be banned from conducting any businesses unless they are registered as full-fledged members of the JCA. Earlier contractors were obliged to register with the Jordanian Engineers Association.

Sources close to the Senate legal committee described the amendments as "structural" but declined to give reasons for the changes.

Newly-appointed JCA President Ali Abu El Ragheb, who described the new law as the association's most outstanding achievement to date, said the modifications were "marginal."

According to available information, the Senate amendments called for reducing by a half all percentages taken by the JCA on each tender for public works. The law gave the JCA a 00.10 per cent share of the total value for each public project. The percentage was counted as revenues for the association. The Senate legal committee set the percentage at 00.05 for each public project.

In accordance with the law, contractors will be classified into six grades, based on their services, equipment, capital etc....

The law stipulated that a committee should be formed to judge any major violations committed by contractors vis-a-vis their clients or in terms of cheating with the quality of products used in construction. But the committee's structure was not decided in the legislation.

Sources disclosed the Senate

modification to this article saying the committee would be chaired by the public works minister and its resolutions — in case public works are concerned — would be implemented by the prime minister.

The modifications also said the law would come into effect a month after it was published by the official government gazette. Usually legislation takes immediate effect after it has been printed in this public bulletin.

Other amendments said that while the JCA president should be a first grade contractor by profession, his deputy could either be a first or second grade contractor. The law as passed by the Lower House said the president and his deputy should both be first grade contractors.

Commenting on this modification, Mr. Abu El Ragheb and other contractors said that both men at the helm should come from the same grade. "If the president travels, how can a second grade contractor deal with contractors who are from the first category. This amendment has a psychological bearing," said a representative of a class one contracting company.

Furthermore, and under the new draft law as endorsed by the Lower House, no public institution is allowed to grant contracts to any company which is not a JCA member. The law also incorporated an earlier Cabinet decision which instructed all public sector companies to give priority to local contractors.

Under the legislation, foreign companies will only be allowed to operate in Jordan if they adhere to the following articles:

— They are registered with the official contracting departments

Interior Ministry simplifies paperwork for W. Bankers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior has instructed the Passports Department to make arrangements for facilitating the issue and renewal of passports for West Bank citizens and to facilitate procedures for West Bankers trying to obtain civil registration cards and birth certificates.

An announcement said that Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani has sent instructions to the Passports Department requesting that arrangements be made to save West Bank citizens the trouble of going around to other government departments to secure approval and endorsement of their papers before submitting them to the Passports Department or the Civil Registration Department.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that West Bank citizens wishing to obtain civil registration cards or passports have first to finalise procedures with accredited officials on the West Bank who have been appointed for this purpose. These officials are entrusted with verifying the authenticity of the documents

presented to them before giving their approval by signing and stamping the papers which are then referred to the concerned authorities in Amman which issue the required documents, the agency said.

Petra said that the passport office and the Civil Registration Department in Amman will not require further procedures from other government departments in Amman once the formalities have been completed on the West Bank, except for those required for military conscription whose papers should be referred to the conscription offices for approval.

The agency said that the regulations will come into force as of Feb. 15.

Passports for Gazans

On Oct. 4, 1986, the minister of interior announced that he had instructed the Passports Department to issue three-year temporary passports to Gazans living in the East Bank of Jordan.

Outlining the measures, the minister said that those entitled

to Jordanian passports should be Gazan refugees residing permanently in the Kingdom. He said those who were forced to flee their homeland in Palestine in the aftermath of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and the subsequent years until 1971 were eligible for such passports. Those who could not prove that they came to the East Bank between 1967 and 1971 were requested to produce documents indicating they had been legally resident in the country for at least 10 successive years.

Palestinian refugees from territories occupied since 1948 who came to Jordan between Dec. 1948 and Feb. 1954 are also considered Jordanian citizens under the Kingdom's constitution.

Since then, applications from Gazans over 16 years of age who have a record of good conduct and complying with conditions and regulations stated by the Ministry of Interior, have been issued passports upon application. It was expected that between 50 to 60,000 people would benefit from the new measures.

Jordan and Oman sign media cooperation accord

MUSCAT (Petra) — Jordan and Oman on Saturday signed an executive programme for cooperation in media and information fields between the two countries.

The programme was signed by Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib, who arrived in Muscat on Friday for a three-day official visit, and by his Omani counterpart Abdul Aziz Al Rawass. The signing of the executive programme followed a round of talks held on Saturday between the two sides to discuss means of strengthening information cooperation between Jordan and Oman.

Under this programme, the two countries will exchange experiences and programmes in the media and press fields and will also exchange visits by staff working in these fields. The two sides also agreed to hold an annual meeting between information ministers in the two countries, to be held alternately in each of the two countries, in order to follow up on the implementation of this executive programme.

Mr. Khatib and Mr. Rawass praised the distinguished existing

relations and the constructive cooperation between the two countries in the various fields.

Cultural ties

On Friday Mr. Khatib, who is also the minister of culture, tourism and antiquities, held talks with Omani Minister of National Heritage and Culture Faisal Ibn Ali. During the meeting the two sides discussed cultural cooperation between the two countries and the exchange of contacts and visits by officials of the cultural sectors in the two countries. Also discussed was setting up cultural weeks and festivals in Jordan and Oman to further bolster cultural cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Khatib later visited the national museum of Oman.

Talks were attended on the Jordanian side by the delegation accompanying Mr. Khatib and Jordanian ambassador to Oman Nayef Al Hadid and were attended on the Omani side by senior officials at the Ministries of Information and National Heritage and Culture.

Social development specialist to assist women's department

AMMAN (Petra) — The United States Agency for Social Development has dispatched a specialist in social development work to Jordan to help the Ministry of Social Development draw up a plan intended to develop the women's department and to help it carry out programmes in the Kingdom.

The specialist, Dr. Haifa Fakhouri who arrived on Saturday, presently heads an Arab-American council on population development.

Dr. Fakhouri said in a statement upon arrival that the aim of the plan was to help the Ministry of Social Development execute

technical and administrative training programmes, conduct assessments of present and future development programmes and to coordinate programmes with various women's unions. The plan envisages a programme to train rural women in different trades and to carry out development schemes, Dr. Fakhouri added.

Referring to the Arab-American council for population development, Dr. Fakhouri said that it represents 26 Arab social organisations in the United States and offers assistance to half a million Arabs living in the state of Michigan, of whom 25,000 are Jordanians.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171-6

Berri offers to free Amal-held Israeli pilot

(Continued from page 1)

from any fear of the U.S. naval build-up off the Lebanese coast.

"Everyone knows Amal, before anyone else, will fight any American who enters Lebanese territory."

Meanwhile police said gunmen had kidnapped a wealthy Lebanese businessman, who also holds an American passport.

They said Jack Saikaly, 50, was abducted at mid-afternoon Friday near Beirut University College.

A police spokesman, who declined to be named, said he believed Mr. Saikaly was abducted for ransom and that his family hopes to get him freed soon.

Mr. Saikaly runs a printing house as well as an apartment building. He has a basketball star nephew at Syracuse University in New York state, according to his friends, who also declined to be identified. The nephew's name was not immediately available.

There has been no responsibility claim for his abduction. Meanwhile new death threats against two Americans were made Friday by the Revolutionary Justice Organisation in Arabic-language statements delivered to a Western news agency and the independent newspaper An Nahar.

The group claims to hold Americans Joseph James Cicippio, 56, and Edward Austin Tracy, 56, and Frenchman Jean-Louis Normandin, 35. The statements were accompanied by two polaroid pictures of Mr. Cicippio and Mr. Normandin in dark blue track suits.

'Camps war' rages without let-up

(Continued from page 1)

because they were starving. Zehdi Labit Terzi told a news conference the refugees from Bourj Al Barajneh had asked for an edict from Muslim leaders.

"It is rather traumatising to think that people can reach a stage of starvation when they can ask for an edict or some permission that they can eat the flesh of the kill because they don't have anything else to eat," Mr. Terzi said.

The PLO representative did not explain what he meant by "flesh of the kill." But a Western news agency in Beirut said it received a statement from a group of women from Bourj Al Barajneh asking for permission

"to eat the flesh of those who didn't have the strength to stay alive." The agency quoted the statement as saying the refugees had resorted to eating cats or dogs but that supplies of the animals were diminished.

"It is really shocking," Mr. Terzi said. "But the facts are there."

The camp has been under siege since October 1986. Police say 542 people have been killed and 1,376 wounded since Nov. 24 at Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila. The Bourj Al Barajneh residents' statement was sent to leaders of the Muslim World, including the Sheikh of the Azhar Mosque in Cairo and Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
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Wait for alternatives

IT appears that another possible casualty of the U.S. naval buildup in the eastern Mediterranean is the fate of the British Anglican church envoy Terry Waite. There is little doubt now that the group which holds Mr. Waite is keeping him under its custody to raise the stakes for any U.S. military intervention in Lebanon aimed at freeing U.S. hostages. Mr. Waite's fate seems now dependent on what course of action the U.S. takes vis-a-vis the issue of abducted Americans in Lebanon.

An earlier casualty of the U.S. demonstration of power in the region has been the seven-nation meeting in Rome scheduled for Feb. 6 to discuss counter-terrorism measures. France, Britain and West Germany rebuffed the U.S. proposed meeting due to the U.S. military buildup in the eastern Mediterranean. The American naval presence off the shores of Lebanon has upstaged any rational collective action that the seven largest Western democracies could have taken. Had the meeting gone as scheduled, it would have given the distinct impression that the U.S. had received the support of the Western powers to launch an attack on Lebanese territory similar to the one against Libya last year. In effect the U.S. looks as if it had been seeking legitimacy for its possible unilateral action against Lebanon from its partners.

We agree with the assessment, made by Mr. Denis Boudouin, spokesman for French Premier Jacques Chirac, that any concerted counter-terrorism action by the seven countries would make them appear like "gendarmes of the world." To put it mildly, any such Western action would undermine any international action against terrorism. Washington should remember that the victims of abductions world-wide are not solely nationals of the Western powers. The phenomenon of hostage-taking has international dimensions and calls for international action. There is no sense at all in U.S. attempts to sidestep the U.N. in this regard. We think the legitimacy that the U.S. seeks for its action to combat terrorism can be obtained only from an international body and by international action.

Gone are the days when any nation or a group of nations could act as the policemen of the world, imposing their conception of law and order on the international community. We share the sentiments of all people of good-will that terrorism must be tackled and dealt with in a vigorous way. Hostage-taking is part and parcel of the phenomenon of terrorism which has afflicted the world in recent years. We think one answer to major aspects and dimensions of terrorism can be found in a well prepared international conference such as that proposed by the fifth summit of Islamic countries in Kuwait which would fill the gaps and loopholes in existing international conventions on counter-terrorism.

Based on this, we think the U.S. would be well advised to heed the wise counsel of its allies and withdraw its forces from the region. The fate of Terry Waite, as well as the lives of the other hostages, hang in the balance and nothing should be done to jeopardise alternatives for freeing them.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Ridiculous expectations

IT is quite ridiculous for Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to ask the Arab people under Israeli occupation in the West Bank to cooperate with the occupation authorities and co-exist with the enemy in the occupied territory. It is impossible for the people of an invaded country to even contemplate the idea of collaborating with the enemy. The people of Palestine whose lands were conquered by Israel in 1948 are still adhering to their position of not cooperating with the occupation authorities though they have been under Israeli rule for 39 years. How then would Shamir expect those whose lands had been occupied for 20 years to do otherwise? It is only natural for the Arab people of occupied Palestine to continue their resistance of the occupation and its arbitrary rule; and it is natural for the Arab people to hold on to their identity and their rights in their homeland, whether occupied in 1948 or in 1967. Over the past years, Israel has been tightening its grip on the occupied Arab land and intensifying its arbitrary measures against the Arab people, but all these measures have failed to cause the Arab inhabitants to give in and collaborate with the Israelis in any form. It will always be difficult for Shamir to achieve what he wants in the occupied Arab territory, and it will always be impossible for Israel and its military might to force the Arab people to give up their rights and their struggle for regaining their homeland.

Al Dustour: European wisdom prevails

NOW that the Rome meeting of the NATO allies to discuss the question of the hostages in Beirut has been cancelled due to a reluctance of members of the alliance to attend, the whole world is assured of the shortsightedness of U.S. policies. The cancellation of the meeting shows that the United States has been isolated even from its closest friends. The United States has prepared for an invasion of Lebanon under the pretext of rescuing the hostages, and U.S. officials had openly announced Washington's intention to do so. To ensure this Washington wanted to enlist the support of its allies in Europe, something which it failed to do. Most world political observers and military analysts had cast doubt on the idea of Washington's invasion of Lebanon, and the U.S. allies in Europe had displayed their total reluctance of going along with American plans; and giving their blessing for an invasion. This European stand can be regarded as a total condemnation of the U.S. policies and its intention of using force against other nations. Europe's rejection of the U.S. ideas was tantamount to a rejection of Washington's blind support for Israel and its continuous supply of arms to the Jewish state which continues its aggression on the Lebanese people and occupies Arab territory.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. supports aggression

ALL indications these days point to the serious events that are imminent in the Middle East region, namely in the Gulf and in Lebanon. Day after day, the U.S.-Israeli campaign against the Arab Nation is being escalated and day after day Washington and Tel Aviv are taking measures to mislead world public opinion by claiming that actions they are taking in the region are in the interest of the Western nations. The Americans have been massing their fleet off the Lebanese coast at a time when the Israelis continue their military preparations and increase their air reconnaissance flights over Lebanese territory in a show of force and with the object of intimidating the Arab people of Lebanon. All these preparations point to something being planned in the dark against the Arab Nation and could come in the form of a new Israeli military adventure in Lebanon, similar to that which took place in 1982.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

How to stop the decline in national savings

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

MANY people think that national savings are the total sum personal savings. But this is not the case. A civil servant who, for instance, is saving when he puts aside a JD 10 banknote each month and deposits the blue paper in his own drawer or in a saving account. On the other hand, national savings are not much related to money. It is not the simple sum of the savings of all citizens, especially when part of these savings are channeled by the banks to finance the consumption of other citizens or the government. Gross national savings are the sum of all expenditure on capital formation (investments) less net borrowing from abroad. Net savings can be calculated by subtracting depreciation of fixed assets from the gross savings.

For instance, the fixed capital formation in Jordan in 1986 was JD 419 million. External borrowing was JD 166 million, therefore the gross domestic savings were JD 253 million, of which JD 131 million represented depreciation of production assets. This made the net savings JD 122 million only. This amount represents no more than six per cent of the disposable income, or nine per cent of the gross domestic product at factor cost. Both, rather low percentages, hardly allow a growth rate in the national economy of over two to three per cent a year.

National savings attributed to public and private sectors reveal that the 1986 saving of the public sector was negative, i.e., the internal and external borrowing of the public sector exceeded its gross expenditure on capital formation by around JD 105 million. The private sector's savings were far better, which allowed the overall national gross savings to be positive to the tune of JD 253 million.

In other words, the capital investments, as such, do not necessarily mean an equal value to national savings, if the investments were financed by external loans in part or in total. The investments of the public sector during 1986 were estimated at JD 230 million, JD 40 million more than total investments of the private sector, which amounted to JD 190 million. However, it was also revealed that the public sector did not save a penny. On the contrary the current expenditure of the public sector exceeded all its income by JD 105 million, i.e., the public sector used credit facilities to finance not only all its investments but part of its consumption too. The private sector on the other hand saved JD 358 million, part of which was borrowed by the public sector to fill the gap.

The rather low rate of net savings in Jordan — less than 10 per cent — contrary to the higher percentages in circulation among economic writers and planners, is due to several factors. Among these factors are: The decline in growth rate of income, the increase in the share of personal income at the expense of corporations, the high percentage of old people and children to the population in the working age, and the increasing dependence on borrowing to finance investments.

If the government continues in the future to borrow a larger part of the savings generated by the private sector to finance its inflated consumption, the net savings of the country could become negative, in which case growth may be halted altogether. The problem with borrowing is that it creates more future public consumption through more interest, which would lessen the public sector's ability to save.

At one time the public sector was, for good or ill, the engine of the economy for savings and growth. The private sector was comfortably riding on the back of the government. Now, that we want an increased role for the private sector — to become the engine of future growth — the public sector is urged not to consume the savings of the private sector, or direct more resources to recurring expenditure in support of the big government concept.

India-Pakistan agreement defuses border flare-up

By G.G. Labelle
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — India and Pakistan have defused a military crisis along their frontier, but longstanding tensions that led to the flare-up remain.

A bilateral agreement signed Wednesday in New Delhi leaves in place thousands of troops whose deployment close to the border caused tensions to rise over the past two weeks.

And the legacy of three wars since 1947, when the Indian subcontinent was partitioned at independence from Britain, continues to plague the two countries' relationship.

The troubles began last month when India moved troops into the western state of Rajasthan for winter military exercises. Operation Brass Tacks is believed to be the largest exercise the Indian military has ever conducted, involving some 200,000 men.

A diplomatic source said India had followed the usual practice of informing Pakistan, but apparently failed to do so quickly or fully enough.

The Rajasthan exercises put India's forces opposite Pakistan's most vulnerable territory, the Sind. The province is beset by political turmoil and contains the country's only port, Karachi.

Pakistan reacted by moving some troops from its own winter exercises and putting them opposite India's most vulnerable point, the troubled northern state of Punjab.

India then threw an estimated 100,000 troops into the Punjab — making its force there about double what the Pakistanis had across the border.

Border strength was increased on both sides in Kashmir, a disputed northern territory where two of the rivals' three wars have been fought.

Eventually, the two sides agreed to talks.

After five days of meetings in New Delhi, a non-aggression accord was announced Wednesday and both sides agreed to withdraw about 60,000 men each along the Kashmir border.

They left for future discussions in Islamabad the question of India's troops in Rajasthan and Pakistan's forces across from Punjab. Apparently, India's desert exercise will go on as planned, and Pakistan likely will keep its troops on duty near Punjab until the exercise is over.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, in a meeting with foreign journalists Thursday, referred to the troop withdrawal agreement as "inching forward" in the process of normalising relations.

"It is difficult to say if the process is going well," he said. Bad blood between Hindu-dominated India and Muslim-majority Pakistan dates to their bitter partition. India is jittery about Pakistan's alliance with the United States, and Pakistan is nervous about Indian ties to the Soviet Union. India is independent of the two superpowers, but obtains most of its military hardware from the Soviets.

Gandhi, who failed to make an expected visit to Pakistan last year, recently invited Pakistan's President Zia Ul Haq to India to see a match in the cricket series under way between the two countries. Zia is expected to come later this month.

But Gandhi, in his meeting Thursday with journalists, said past wars and suspicions were interfering with improving relations. And he could not resist a swipe at Pakistan and Zia.

"There is also a built-in tension because they don't have a working democracy," he said. "It is much harder to deal with a military dictatorship."

Reagan turns 76 amid challenges to leadership

By Gene Gibbons
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Ronald Reagan — who once seemed above the tolls of age and office — turned 76 Friday facing political crises, health concerns and perception that he will be largely a caretaker in the twilight of his presidency.

"I think we've seen the high-water mark of the Reagan administration," says "new right" political leader Richard Viguerie, a one-time Reagan stalwart.

"The White House is not providing any leadership — it's just on hold," Viguerie added, a common view as Reagan begins his last two years in office in the grip of the Iran arms scandal.

An aide to Texas Democrat Jim Wright, the new speaker of the House of Representatives, recalled that for years members of Congress were wary of resisting the popular Reagan on issues ranging from his trillion-dollar defence build-up to his refusal to raise taxes despite staggering federal deficits.

"Reagan always had a great fear factor going for him," Wright's aide said. "Members of Congress felt his popularity made it politically suicidal to cross him."

"Well, the fear is gone now." Old political hands caution that Reagan has built a political career on almost magical ability to recover from adversity and confound foes who underestimate him.

The public retains a high personal esteem for their leader as, rebounding from recent prostate surgery and a checkup for colon cancer detected in 1985, he soldiers on as the oldest president in U.S. history.

But polls show that in terms of job performance he has lost considerable public confidence since disclosure last November of the administration's secret sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Two special congressional committees are preparing probes into

the web of international transactions behind the affair, which led to the resignation of national security adviser John Poindexter and the firing of Pointdexter aide Oliver North.

An independent lawyer, Lawrence Walsh, has also been appointed to investigate possible criminal wrongdoing.

The inquiries evoke memories of the Watergate scandal that drove President Richard Nixon out of office under the probing of congressional committees and a special prosecutor in 1974, even though there has been no evidence to suggest Reagan has committed any crimes.

Some analysts say the root of Reagan's problems goes deeper than the Iran affair.

"Iran isn't the problem," says Viguerie. "The problem is you've got a lot of tired old people in the administration going through the motions of holding down their jobs."

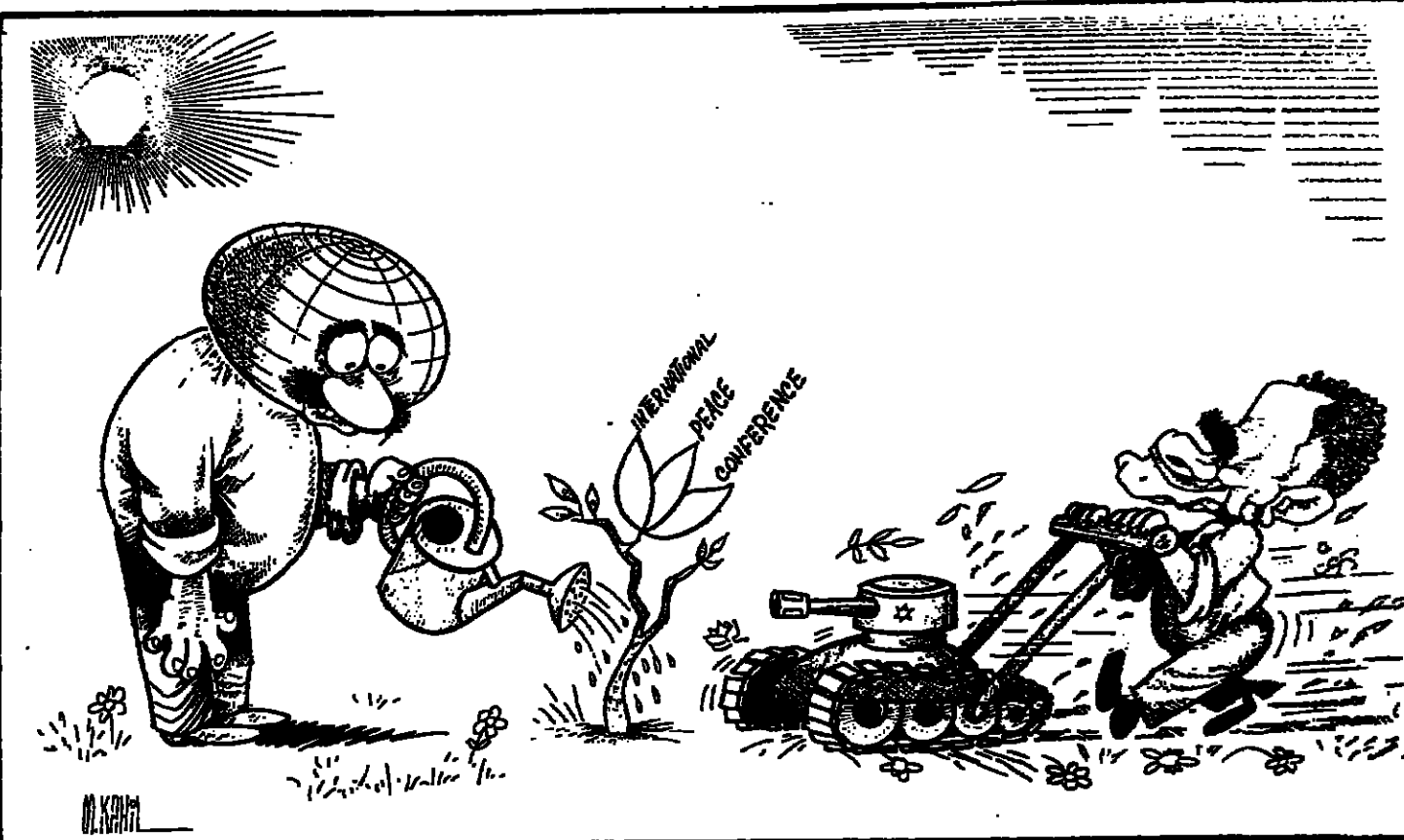
The White House has been trying to dispel the notion Reagan has been increasingly uninterested in government affairs since his January hospitalisation for successful prostate surgery.

He has shown remarkable resilience in recovering from the surgery as well as from a bullet wound to the chest in a 1981 assassination attempt and 1985 surgery for colon cancer.

He now must have regular checkups for recurrence of the colon cancer. Such a test last month found no problems.

Even so, Reagan has been part-time president since the first of the year and is not scheduled to resume a full workload until mid-February.

One senior Republican congressional official, who asked not to be identified, said the impression in political circles is that the Iran scandal and illness have created a leadership vacuum and that this is reflected in internal battles over the shaping of a White House legislative agenda for the next two years.



Two Israeli women defend Palestinians

By Galina Vromen
Reuters

JERUSALEM — Braving death threats and abuse, two middle-aged Jewish women have become the unlikely champions of Palestinians facing imprisonment or expulsion by the Israeli authorities on charges of guerrilla activity.

Lawyers Felicia Langer and Lea Tsemel spend much of their time in the Israeli supreme court defending Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is usually a fruitless endeavour.

Despite scepticism among Arabs at the chances of receiving a fair trial in Israeli courts, Langer and Tsemel have won respect as the only Israeli lawyers to devote themselves primarily to Palestinian rights — at minimum fees.

While their casebooks are similar, their styles are very different. Tsemel is a fiery orator with a penchant for sharp words and fashionable clothes. Langer, an avowed Communist, has a polite, old-world courtroom manner and favours conservatively tailored suits.

"Many Palestinians appreciate what they do and believe they have more leeway with the authorities because they are Israelis," a Palestinian journalist said. Known for their leftist views and considered traitors by many

Israelis, Langer and Tsemel have been threatened with murder by Jewish extremists and had their car tyres slashed.

Langer says she employs a bodyguard and Tsemel refuses to be photographed in local newspapers to "make it harder for Israeli extremists to identify her."

"What drives me is my view of the Israeli occupation as a disaster for both peoples," Langer told Reuters in her Jerusalem office, dominated by a poster of jailed black South African leader Nelson Mandela.

Their work is often an exercise in frustration. Under Israeli law, judges can bar lawyers from seeing evidence against their clients that could reveal security intelligence sources, making a defence virtually impossible.

Regulations left over from the pre-1948 British mandate period and still used by the Israeli military to control the 1.3 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza give the occupation authorities wide latitude to act against residents.

"Our victories are little victories — a prison visit here, a reduced sentence there. Usually it's not a matter of winning a case in court. But when the authorities think we have a chance, they back down," said Tsemel, who began defending Palestinians after she received her law degree in 1971.

Langer, who began her work

immediately after the 1967 Middle East war, says she always goes into court expecting to convince the judges.

She emigrated from Poland with her husband, a survivor of the Nazi Holocaust, in 1950 to join her mother in Israel and says she was shocked at discrimination she found against Arab citizens of the Jewish state.

While most Israelis were thrilled at their 1967 victory, which brought over one million Arabs under Israeli occupation and denied them any civil rights, Langer decided to work against the occupation.

"At the time it was very exotic that a Jew and a woman would do such a thing. I didn't know I would do it for 20 years. Nobody then thought the occupation would last and I saw my mission as temporary," she said.

Being a woman was never a problem, she said. Her first client was a traditional Muslim religious leader whose son had been jailed.

She went on to help prevent the deportation of Nablus Mayor Bassam Shakaa in 1980, but was unable to stop the expulsions of West Bank mayors Mohammad Milhel from Halhoul and Fahd Kawasmeh from Hebron.

Most recently she was involved in the defence of Palestinian journalist Akram Haniyeh, editor of the east Jerusalem daily Al Shaab, deported earlier this

month as an alleged senior Palestine Liberation Organisation member.

Unlike Tsemel, Langer will not take on cases of Palestinians who admit to having killed Jews.

Tsemel, born in the port of Haifa, says everyone has a right to be defended. "A member of the people who occupies has no right to tell the occupied what to do," she explained.

She has defended Palestinians involved in a 1978 attack on an Israeli bus near Tel Aviv in which 37 people died and a 1975 attack on Tel Aviv's Savoy Hotel in which eight Israelis and three soldiers died.

"I view my clients as political prisoners," said Tsemel, who works out of an office in Arab east Jerusalem.

In recent years she says her work and Langer's have won wider acceptance among Israelis, particularly since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

But the idea of Israelis defending Palestinians is still far from popular. Asked to comment on Langer and Tsemel, right-wing parliamentarian Geula Cohen told Reuters:

"It's not surprising that it's two women who are doing such things. Women always fight hard for what they believe. But those two — they're fighting in the wrong direction."

After years as political dwarf, Brazil emerges as Latin giant

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

BRASILIA — After years as a geographical giant and a political dwarf, Brazil's international presence is slowly beginning to match the country's enormous size and economic weight.

With 135 million people, a territory that takes up half of South America, and the world's eighth-largest free-market economy, Brazil has all the characteristics of a natural leader in Latin America and the Third World.

Some say it also has considerable potential for confrontation with the United States, the other giant of the Western Hemisphere.

Yet, for years Brazil's international profile was so low that, as one European diplomat put it, "you could hardly see it."

Though Brazilian foreign policy is still relatively low-key, it became more active when Brazil returned to democracy in 1985 after 21 years of military rule.

"I am here to say that Brazil no longer wishes her voice to be timid," President Jose Sarney told the United Nations in September 1985, six months after he took office. "Brazil wants to be heard... with a clearly determined presence."

Since then, Brazil's presence has become distinctly more visible on the international scene. A few examples:

— Brazil is playing a leading role in moves towards a Latin American common market, cooperating more closely with its traditional rival Argentina, in the hope of paving the way for wider integration.

— Brazil, with India, led Third World opposition to U.S. positions on General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations in Uruguay last year.

— Brazil has joined the Contadora peace initiative for Central America, now an eight-nation effort which runs counter to U.S. policies in the volatile region.

— Brazil is expected to gain a rotating seat on the United Nations Security Council this year.

— A Brazilian, Joao Basna Soares, is now secretary general of the Organisation of American States (OAS).

"The principles of our foreign policy have not changed," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Fernando Barreto. "We are moderate, pragmatic, we don't interfere in the affairs of others. But because of our size, we are increasingly asked to take a stand (by other Latin countries). As a

result of our economic growth, we have a higher profile now."

Some analysts predict that Brazil's more active international role is taking it on a collision course with the United States, the dominant power in the Western Hemisphere.

"Many signs... point to an ever-deepening contention between the United States and Latin America led by Brazil," said David Fleischer, head of Brasilia University's political science department. "This is almost inevitable."

Echoed an official of the presidency here: "As Brazil grows, becoming more assertive, frictions arise (with the United States)."

Both Brazilian and U.S. officials stress that most of those frictions centre on trade rather than politics: Washington claims that Brazil's \$5-billion surplus in U.S. trade is based on measures to shut American products out of the profitable Brazilian market for small computers and components.

While trade issues are at the root of most problems with the United States, the new republic, as the government calls it, has also taken political steps which displeased Washington, including Brazilian membership of the four-nation South American Contadora support group.

Last year, Brazil sponsored a United Nations resolution to make the South Atlantic a nuclear-free zone. "The vote was 124 for, one against," recalled a foreign ministry official. "The one against was cast by the U.S."

Though some officials here argue that Brazil re-established diplomatic relations with Cuba last year because of trade considerations, it followed domestic political pressure from Brazil's newly-active opposition parties.

After a 21-year break, Cuba regarded the resumption of ties with Latin America's biggest country as the crowning event in a long drive to renew its diplomatic presence on the continent.

For Washington, Brasilia's decision was a disappointing setback in the Reagan administration's campaign to isolate Fidel Castro's government.

Brazil followed up the normalisation of ties by sending Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhães to Cuba on January 21 on the first visit there of a cabinet-rank official since the 1950s. A few days later, Sarney and Castro spoke by telephone to inaugurate direct dialling between their nations.

Group plans global bash to usher in third millennium

By Sue Baker
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Ronald Reagan accepted an invitation, George Bush invited himself, Deng Xiaoping hasn't RSVP'd. And Britain's youngest royal Prince Henry, just is not planning that far ahead.

They are all on the guest list for the ultimate New Year's Eve party — a global network of celebrations planned for December 31, 1999, to usher in the third millennium A.D. at sites ranging from the pyramids to Stonehenge and the Great Wall.

The "world millennium gala ball" is the brainchild of the millennium society, an association of some 4,000 "consummate optimists" from 32 countries who see the historic calendar shift as a chance to promote world harmony while having fun.

"It is about hope," chairman Ed McNally said, explaining why he and some classmates at Yale University decided to create the society in 1979.

"We believe there will be a better future and we are committed to work very hard to ensure

there will be one," McNally told Reuters. "That's why we're planning events so far in advance."

He said the Egyptian government has agreed to let 3,000 revelers celebrate at the Great Pyramid of Cheops at Giza. The British liner QE2 has been contracted to take them there.

It will leave New York on December 21, 1999, and make a port call at Marseilles to pick up several thousand bottles of champagne donated by the French Champagne Growers Association.

Although the pyramids party is the only celebration actually in preparation, it is just the start of what the millennium society has in mind for its members and a target list of elite guests.

It hopes to gain permission to hold other events at India's Taj Mahal, China's Great Wall, Britain's Stonehenge, New Zealand's Statue of Liberty and New Zealand's Eden Crater, among other famed locales.

"There'll be dozens of simultaneous events all around the world as the year 2000 breaks across each time zone," said McNally, a New York lawyer.

What will the ultimate parties be like?

"A multi-sensory experience," said society organizer Laurie Flynn. "Short of giving away the plot, I will say it's a choreography of lasers, video imaging and special effects."

In plain language, she said, that means music, fireworks, light shows, dancing, food and, of course, champagne.

The cost? Impossible to estimate so far in advance, the society says. A detailed estimate is expected in 1997 from the firm of Thomas Cooke, which is handling travel plans.

V.I.P. guests will have their costs paid by the society, while regular members will be expected to buy tickets.

Although the original idea conceived in 1979 was to hold a reunion of McNally's class in 20 years, that became a larger enterprise when they realised it would mark the dawn of the third millennium.

"The idea caught their imagination, they developed it and things got rolling and the society was incorporated as a charity in 1983," said Scott Widmeyer,

another spokesman.

The group created a scholarship programme for students from around the world and, to help fund it, began annual "countdown to the millennium" New Year's Eve balls in various countries.

"We wanted to broaden the scope and involve hundreds and perhaps thousands of people around a common cause of international understanding," said Widmeyer.

The society's scholars are sent to the United World colleges, a network of universities whose titular head is Britain's future king, Prince Charles.

More notice has been stirred by an annual list of "10 most inspiring people," with those honoured invited to the 1999 galas.

McNally said Reagan, named to the 1985 list, already has accepted the invitation to party at the pyramids — although he would then be nearing his 89th birthday.

"As we look to the time ahead, we are confident that we have begun to lay a foundation for a better and freer world and a world at peace," he quoted

Reagan as saying in his acceptance letter.

Bush, who has not made the most-inspiring list, did a video tape for the 1985 Washington ball in which he said he looked forward to attending the millennium celebration.

"He sort of invited himself," McNally said.

Others listed by the society as having accepted invitations are comedians Bob Hope and George Burns, aged 90, who asked if he could bring a date Robert Gale, the doctor who helped treat victims of the 1986 nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union and U.S. baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, who organised the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

McNally said Buckingham Palace offered polite thanks for an invitation extended to Prince Henry, two-year-old son of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, but "regretfully informed" he was only accepting engagements two years in advance.

The society says it is still awaiting firm replies from China's leader, Deng Xiaoping, Philippine President Corason Aquino, South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace prize winner Elie Wiesel and West German tennis star Boris Becker, among others.

"They symbolise a sense of hope and promise for the future," said Widmeyer. "And that's basically what the millennium society is all about."

"We are all consummate optimists."

Apart from the annual most-inspiring selections from each year between 1984 and 1999, other guests will be millennium scholars and members and representatives of news media.

The plan to celebrate the dawn of the third millennium as the year 2000 opens has created a stir among those who insist it really begins in 2001.

But the society is sticking to its guns.

While acknowledging that 2001 is correct in the strictest sense — mathematically, 2000 is the last year of the second millennium — Widmeyer said most people viewed the year as the symbolic milestone.

Debate over 'divided Britain' re-emerges

By Marcus Kilason
The Associated Press

LONDON — Touring in Manchester, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher briskly dismissed a businessman's complaint that she was running down the economy of Britain's north.

"I don't think there is anything like a north-south divide," she said.

Two weeks later, the latest government figures appeared to support Mrs. Thatcher's critics — job losses in the north, rising prosperity in the south. And once again, a debate that has vexed the British since before Queen Victoria's rule was all over the front pages.

There is a north-south divide, consisting of one prosperous nation centred on London and another north of the capital that is sunk in irreversible decline — or is it an age-old gap between rich and poor, to which geography is merely incidental?

Some observers say the divide exists solely in the British mind, fueled by different accents, dress and eating habits.

Australian journalist John Pilger, writing of his first trip beyond the northernmost London suburb of Watford, referred to the area as "another nation with a different history, different loyalties, different humour, even different values."

The employment department's 1984 census, updated to 1986,

showed that of the net loss of 1.568 million jobs since Mrs. Thatcher's Conservative Party elected in 1979, 94 per cent were in central and northern England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Fifty-eight per cent of the country's population lives in those regions.

With the increased number of self-employed included in the calculations, England's east, south east and south west registered a net gain of 356,000 employees from 1979, compared with a net loss of 1.107 million spread over almost all the rest of the United Kingdom.

The opposition Labour Party seized on the figures as proof of what the party's Gordon Brown called "betrayal by a government of two-nation Tories."

John Prescott, the Labour Party's spokesman on employment, called on Mrs. Thatcher to "sit down and study these reports and find something out, instead of misleading people."

Even the Tories' own Michael Fallon, a lawmaker representing a northern region, accused his government of making northern taxpayers subsidise "southern comforts."

But the thickest of statistics provided comfort for both sides. The employment department pointed to the increase in the number of self-employed — from 1.9 million to 2.75 million since 1979 — which is what Mrs. Thatcher long has advocated as a way of reducing the 11.3 per cent overall unemployment rate.

It also noted that since 1983, the rate of increase in unemployment has been falling steadily, indicating that Britain is recovering from recession and that every region except Wales had an increase in the number of jobs created.

A striking statistic was the shift from industry to services. The figures showed that jobs in the financial sector, tourism, leisure and other services were up 861,000 from 1979.

This shift falls in line with conservative thinking.

"What the Thatcher government has done is write off large parts of the industrial base, saying that can never be revived, and pinning hopes instead on the development of a service economy and a building up of over-

seas investments," Professor Andrew Gamble of Sheffield University's Department of Politics told a recent conference.

Overseas assets have risen six-fold since Mrs. Thatcher came to office. At roughly \$120 billion, they make Britain the world's second-largest international creditor after Japan, only a decade after Britain was in such economic trouble that it needed a bailout loan from the International Monetary Fund.

This surplus has been generated largely by North Sea oil and financial services centred in the city, the blossoming, newly computerised financial district of London.

It fuels the affluence of the so-called stockbroker belt of country homes just south of London, and the Docklands Project, the largest urban renewal scheme in Europe.

Northern cities face bigger problems adjusting to what some would call post-industrial Britain. Liverpool's docks, once the jumping-off point for America, are largely idle as the economic focus has shifted toward Europe, and unemployment is 20 per cent to 25 per cent.

The decline of industries that were almost synonymous with their cities — coal in Newcastle, steel in Sheffield, shipyards in Glasgow — has created unemployment rates in some northern cities about twice as high as London's 9.4 per cent.

But experts generally agree that the divide is not geographically clear cut. The north has large pockets of affluence, the south has areas as blighted as the north.

Sheerness in the south's county of Kent has 21 per cent unemployment, and the inner London borough of Hackney Long has been regarded as the poorest in mainland Britain.

On the other hand, Beverly in north east England has fewer jobless than the national average of 11.3 per cent.

The Sunday Times, in an exhaustive study prompted by the Employment Department statistics, concluded that the north-south divide didn't exist. It provided figures it said proved that even the most blighted areas of the north were experiencing a retail and leisure boom, fueled by the 80 to 88 per cent of people who have jobs.

It called the north-south divide a "fashionable phrase" to describe the unevenly spread prosperity, and "like most such generalisations it obscures more than it illumines."

Others point out that every European country has its regional divide, while some analysts feel that more significant is the divide between west and east, as prosperity moves to regions closest to continental Europe and the North Sea oilfields.

Employment Minister John Lee says Mrs. Thatcher's political opposition is ignoring the fact that 1 million new jobs have been created under the Conservatives since 1979, that unemployment has been falling for four months.

Nonetheless, the government is known to be planning a reform of local taxes geared specifically to resuscitating the north's economy, and this is likely to play a key part in Tory electoral strategy.

John Whitehead of Caci Market analysts, who has studied the divisions, said in an interview that a major problem is high housing costs in London, coupled with a widespread cultural resistance to moving in search of jobs.

"Communities in Britain are centuries older than in America and people have a much stronger sense of regional identity," he said.

Dog-fighting remains popular in Afghanistan

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

KABUL — After eight years of civil war, many Afghans say they are tired of fighting each other — but watching dogs fight is another matter. This traditional event is as popular as ever.

The time is Friday morning, on the Muslim day of rest. The place is a dusty plain on the northern outskirts of Kabul, where new construction projects are beginning to rise.

Several thousand men and boys — there is not a female in sight — are gathered in a large circle dressed mainly in khaki robes and wearing turbans or Astrakhan hats.

Inside the circle about 20 dogs — not the famed Afghan hounds but powerfully-built mongrels, most requiring two men to hold them on a leash — are waiting for battle to commence.

Dog-fighting, which takes place only during the winter months, is a free entertainment in a country where not much else is on offer. Soccer is played in the summer, but stadia are few.

Many of the spectators at the dog-fight will go to Friday prayers afterwards. Otherwise, there is the cinema. One central Kabul picture house is offering an American science fiction film, "Inferno," and an Indian drama.

In northern Afghanistan a popular traditional sport is buzkashi, something like a cross be-

tween polo and rugby football, in which any number of horse riders attempt to seize possession of a decapitated calf or goat.

But in the absence of horse racing, dog-fighting offers an easily available form of gambling.

A dog owner and half a dozen friends will jointly put up 10,000 or 20,000 Afghanis (\$200 or \$400 at official rates) which, if they lose the fight, they forfeit to the syndicate, explains Zalmay, one of the owners.

The crowd can also bet among themselves, while some pass the time playing "gote," a sort of roulette employing a map and dice instead of a table and wheel.

The hubbub of spectators and barking of dogs grows more intense. Then two dogs are paired off, and at a signal from the referee, are unleashed to spring at each other's throats and roll over, grappling and snarling in the dust.

It sounds cruel, but little serious damage seems to take place. The contest is declared over when one dog runs away or its owner calls a halt — usually after a few minutes.

Zalmay claims that his dog, Sher (lion), has won all of his 10 contests.

Staggering slightly as Sher tugs at the leash, he unexpectedly reveals that he is a former guerrilla who was fighting the government until a few weeks ago when Kabul declared its "national reconciliation" policy and a un-

ilateral ceasefire.

Now he and 70 comrades have come to Kabul from a village in Farwan province, north of the capital, to negotiate with the government over ceasefire terms and a six-month exemption from military service.

If the government had been searching, it could hardly have found a more suitable example of contrite guerrillas to parade before the press than the 25-year-old Zalmay, picked at random from among the dog handlers.

"We didn't know the real policies of the government," he says. "It is not against Islam."

An onlooker, 28-year-old schoolteacher Raz Mohammad, who has spent three-and-a-half years in the army, also favours national reconciliation.

"It is a good event in the history of Afghanistan, because I am sure most of the brothers who are fighting will agree," he tells a Western reporter.

It is hard to tell how typical such views are. If there are supporters of the guerrillas at the Kabul dog fight, they are not talking to Western pressmen escorted by government-appointed guides.

Meanwhile, the drone of military aircraft in the clear blue skies, the occasional troop carrier on the roads nearby, and an isolated thud in the snow-capped hills that could be artillery fire, are a reminder that national reconciliation has not arrived yet.



Thai massues — Bangkok's main touristic attraction

Thailand makes 1987 its year for tourists

By Salinya Sukwong
Reuters

BANGKOK — Thailand has kicked off 1987 by throwing its doors open wider than at any time in its history to tourists, who provide its main source of foreign income.

The enthusiastically capitalist kingdom, bordered by Socialist Burma and Communist Indochina, has declared 1987 "Thailand's year of tourism."

Its scenery, Buddhist festivals and royal ceremonies, and a lively entertainment industry, are being promoted as never before to bring in a hoped-for 2.9 million visitors.

Cabinet ministers bearing jasmine garlands even turned up early on New Year's day to greet the year's first planeloads of tourists to what the slick official brochures call "Asia's most exotic destination."

Thailand forecasts its profits from tourism will hit a record \$1.4 billion in 1987.

The Thai currency, tied largely to the U.S. dollar, favours travellers whose spending power would be relatively less in countries with strong currencies.

This year is seen by Thailand's 54 million people as auspicious. They will mark the 60th birthday — a particularly significant milestone for Thailand — of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, for whom their veneration verges on awe. His birthday on December 5 will be celebrated with military parades, fireworks, light-and-sound displays and solemn Buddhist rituals.

One of the most impressive state events of the year will be an

October procession of golden royal barges down the Chao Phraya River which threads through Bangkok.

Seated upon a golden throne, the monarch will be ferried by rowers in ancient Siamese court dress to the Temple of Dawn to present saffron robes to Buddhist monks.

Tourists can watch the spectacle from the river banks or let colour television bring it to them in the luxury of some of the world's most highly-rated hotels.

Because of a hotel glut, Bangkok offers relatively cheap yet deluxe bases for shopping and sight-seeing forays to Buddhist temples, restaurants offering fiery Thai food or cosmopolitan cuisine, and silk, jewellery and antique shops.

In addition, no-frills guest houses charging only a few dollars per night abound for the most frugal visitors. The relatively low cost of Thai labour and service is another boon for visitors.

Thailand, formerly Siam, was the only South-East Asian state never colonised and Thais have made great efforts to bring their proud past to life for tourists.

Few leave Bangkok without seeing the Grand Palace complex, a shimmering collection of gilded temples and royal residences right out of an exotic fairy tale. The main temple houses the emerald Buddha, which is actually sculpted of jade and is the country's most revered religious object.

The glory of its former capital of Ayutthaya, an hour by road from Bangkok, will be recalled in nightly light-and-sound displays during the first two weeks of

April.

They will evoke an era which began in 1350 when princes on war elephants held sway over parts of modern Kampuchea, Laos, Burma and Malaysia, and ended when Burmese armies smashed the old capital in 1767, razing everything which would burn.

In Thailand's northeast, ruins of bronze-age civilisation are being restored. 3,500-year-old cliff paintings overlook the Mekong River and monuments of Kampuchea's Angkor civilisation still stand.

Peasants of the arid north-east will hold their "bang fai" festival in May, shooting huge, home-made bamboo rockets packed with gunpowder skywards in a traditional appeal for abundant rains.

As with many Thai festivals, the main event follows a prelude of ritual revelry, beauty pageants and folk dancing.

This in all regions will celebrate their traditional New Year, songkran, in April with Buddhist rites, and enthusiastic water-throwing — particularly so in northern Chiang Mai, Thailand's second city.

An hour by air from the capital, Chiang Mai offers shopping and sightseeing to hamlets of colourfully garbed hilltribe people, schools for elephants — still used in the lumber industry — and Buddhist retreats.

The south has developed many seaside tourist resorts, some peacefully quiet and others, like the island of Phuket, rapidly turning into international playgrounds.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC NEWS GRAPHIC

The first land that Christopher Columbus saw in the New World — and where he first set foot — was Samana Cay in the eastern Bahamas.

In a shop in Tokyo, imported cantaloupes cost about \$65 apiece, apples \$5.25 each, and a box of cherries \$240 (or \$2.30 per cherry).

Since World War II, delegates from the International Committee of the Red Cross have visited more than 500,000 detainees in 95 countries in situations not covered by the Geneva Conventions.

The civilian victims of World War II outnumbered the military casualties.

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American Breland floors S. African to take title

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — After five rounds, Mark Breland's left hand was hurting. But he didn't tell his corner.

"I thought, 'I'm not going to complain. I'm in there now,'" said the 1984 Olympic champion. Two rounds later, Breland was the World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight champion with a knockout victory over Harold Volbrecht of South Africa.

Breland said he hurt his left hand when he landed a jab on top of Volbrecht's head in the first round and hurt it again with another jab to the head in the fifth.

Breland appeared at a post-fight party with the hand wrapped and said "I think it might be broken." He said he would go for x-rays in the morning.

But he still was able to control the fight until he found the range

with his right hand in the seventh round.

Late in that round, Breland landed a right hand to Volbrecht's face.

"He did a little dance," Breland said. "Then I hit him with another right."

The second right put Volbrecht down on his left knee in a neutral corner, where he was counted out at 2:07 of the round by referee Tony Perez.

The fact that he was a professional champion less than three years after ending a brilliant amateur career hadn't sunk in on Breland.

The unbeaten Breland became the second member of the 1984 U.S. Olympic boxing team to win a world title, joining Evander

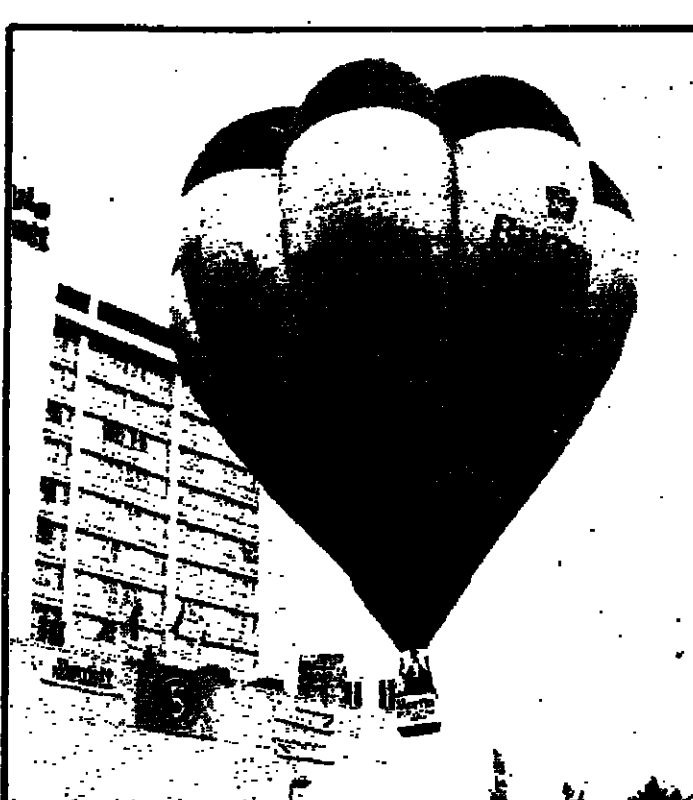
Holyfield, the light heavyweight bronze medalist who is the WBA junior heavyweight champ.

But although he was unable to land solidly on his 5-6 opponent, the 23-year-old Breland, of New York, was in control of the fight when the end came.

It was his 17th victory and his 12th knockout as a pro after he posted a 110-1 amateur record.

Breland got his championship bid before 2,800 fans at the Atlantic City Convention Centre ballroom when Lloyd Honeyghan of Britain relinquished the title, claiming he didn't want to risk having to make a mandatory defence against Volbrecht, a South African who was ranked as the no. 1 contender.

Honeyghan still holds the World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation titles, and a fight with Breland is possible later in the year.



HIGH IN THE SKY: Hundreds of people Saturday crowded at the Amman Marriott Hotel to witness the flight of a hot air balloon exhibition marking the hotel's 5th anniversary on Jan. 26. The 220-kilogramme British Airways balloon lifted off from the hotel's parking lot amidst the cheers from those gathered. The hotel's sales manager, Samir Daqqa, mounted the balloon with the British Airways crew and several onlookers were given the chance to ride the multicoloured 90-foot tall balloon. The balloon, which can reach an altitude of 10,000 feet, has already flown in ten countries before it flew over Amman. (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan).

Draw seems likely in India-Pakistan cricket

MADRAS, India (AP) — India survived a middle-order collapse to post 527 for nine in its first innings on the fourth day of the first cricket test against Pakistan here Saturday.

India leads Pakistan's first innings score of 487 for nine declared by 40 runs, but a draw seems likely with only Sunday's play remaining.

A 185-run stand for the third wicket between Mohinder Amarnath and Dilip Vengsarkar fired India to a commanding 405 for two, but loss of four quick wickets in the afternoon session restored parity for Pakistan.

India was 453 for six at tea, but gained the first innings lead when vice captain Ravi Shastri and Kiran More added 41 runs in 52 minutes for the seventh wicket.

India gave evidence of its batting depth when More, 28, and Shival Yadav put on another 17 runs for the eighth wicket and last

man Maninder Singh hit Tauseef Ahmed for a six over long on. The Pakistan attack was ground to dust by Amarnath and Vengsarkar, but both experienced batsmen were denied centuries.

Amarnath, 89, was run out after his partner did not respond to a call for a second run. Visibly upset at the dismissal, Vengsarkar took 51 minutes to add another four runs before being stumped off Ahmed for 96.

The game swung toward Pakistan's side when Ahmed had Mohammed Azharuddin stumped and skipper Kapil Dev was caught at extra cover off Abdul Qadir for the addition of only 24 runs.

Pakistan's captain Imran Khan claimed his wicket of the match in his 23rd over, having Shastri caught behind.

Imran then snapped Raju Kulkarni in similar fashion to give wicket-keeper Saleem Yousaf his fourth victim in the India innings.

Everton climbs to league lead

LONDON (R) — Arsenal's creditable — but scarcely credible — 12-week stay at the top of the English First Division came to an end Saturday when Everton finally dislodged the young Londoners.

With Arsenal preparing for Sunday's eagerly-awaited League Cup semifinal first-leg tie against Tottenham, Everton took advantage of its absence from the fixture list by beating Coventry 3-1 at Goodison to move one point ahead.

Everton's victory lifted it on to 53 points, and it is followed by Arsenal, who has a game to hand, and Liverpool (48) who was also inactive Saturday afternoon.

Ironically, the luck with which Arsenal is traditionally associated, came to Everton's assistance after former England striker Cyrille Regis put the visitors ahead in the 13th minute when he pushed a bad mistake by \$1.5 million defender Dave Watson.

Coventry maintained that one-goal advantage until seconds before halftime when Everton drew level, a shot by England fullback Gary Stevens taking a deflection off Nick Pickering and flying fearlessly into the net.

With the top of the First Division now in sight, Everton pushed forward and its sense of adventure was rewarded with further goals from Trevor Steven, with a 53rd minute penalty, and Adrian Heath 14 minutes later.

Nottingham Forest and Luton, lying fourth and fifth, both failed to make any significant move up the table when they were held to away draws.

British fan defends actions in Heysel riot

LONDON (AP) — A court hearing into the 1985 Heysel Soccer Stadium tragedy was told Friday that a Liverpool fan allegedly said the rioting started with an attack by Italian backers on a 10-year-old youth.

Liverpool fan Terrence Wilson, charged with manslaughter for his part in the stadium riot in which 39 mostly Italian fans died, allegedly said he should have been hailed a hero for his part in the fighting during which he went to the aid of the boy.

"We couldn't stand for that and we charged through the fence. You can't stand by and see your mates getting beaten up," Wilson reportedly told a British newspaper.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Runner Budd may be through

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — World cross-country champion Zola Budd may never run competitively again because of leg and hip injuries, the Star newspaper reported Saturday. Interviewed in Johannesburg before she left for London on Friday night, Budd said she had received treatment for her hamstring problem from two Bloemfontein doctors, but this had not helped. She is also suffering from a hip misalignment. An unidentified member of Budd's family told the Star that the doctors "had actually told her that her career is over." Budd said she would consult a doctor in West Germany for a second opinion and would not be able to defend her world cross-country title in Warsaw next month.

Iran to send team to Kuwait

TEHRAN (R) — Iran will send its national soccer team to Kuwait for an Olympic qualifying match next month, Football Federation Chief Ali Mohammad Mortazavi was quoted Saturday as saying. This reversed a previous decision to stay away because of the Gulf emirate's "open hostility" towards Iran. The match is due to be played on March 7. The federation's former head, Nosratollah Sajjadi, told Abar newspaper three weeks ago Iran had asked the International Federation of Football Associations (FIFA) to change the venue because "Kuwait is openly hostile to Iran and closely collaborates with Iraq in the imposed war."

Tottenham changes mind on Maradona

LONDON (R) — Tottenham manager David Pleat denied his English First Division soccer club was in a chase to sign Argentine World Cup captain Diego Maradona. The denial followed his comments in a British newspaper interview on Wednesday that Tottenham might try to sign Maradona if "a clever financial exercise" could be worked out. Pleat discounted speculation that Maradona, who cost his present Italian club Napoli a world record \$7.5 million, would be available at £10 million (\$15 million).

Glasgow considers fine appeal

GLASGOW (R) — Scottish Premier Division soccer club Glasgow Rangers were deciding Saturday whether to appeal against the 12,000 Swiss francs (\$7,690) fine imposed on the club by the European Football Union (UEFA). Rangers were fined for unsporting behaviour by the entire team during their UEFA Cup third round tie in December when two of the Scottish team's players were sent off. The club has three days in which to consider an appeal.

German Langer shoots amazing round

HONOLULU, Hawaii (R) — West German Bernhard Langer shot eight birdies for an incredible eight-under-par 64 to tie American Fred Couples for the second round lead at the \$600,000 Hawaiian Open golf tournament. Couples, who was paired with Langer, opened his first seven holes before recording his first birdie on the eighth hole. He made a strong move through the back nine with six birdies for a second round 65 and a first place tie with Langer at 10-under-par 134. Larry Mize was one stroke behind the leaders at 135 and fellow American Paul Azinger stood in fourth place at 136 at the Waialae Country Club.

Connors upset in U.S. indoor tennis

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Czechoslovakia's Milan Srejber upset Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe brushed past Jakob Hlasek to advance to the semifinal round of the \$465,000 U.S. Indoor Pro Tennis Tournament.

Srejber beat Connors, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) Friday night to advance to the semifinal. In the final match of the day, fourth seeded McEnroe had an easy time beating Hlasek of Switzerland, 6-2, 6-3. The 6-foot-8 Srejber featured a

powerful serve in eliminating the second seeded Connors. Earlier, Tim Mayotte and Amos Mansdorf also advanced to Saturday's semifinal.

The fifth seeded Mayotte, who reached the final of this event last year only to default to Ivan Lendl because of pulled stomach muscles, won his quarterfinal, 7-5, 6-4 over 14th-rated Paul Annacone.

Mansdorf reached the round of four with a 6-7 (1-7), 6-3, 6-4 victory over Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia.

Fourth seeded John McEnroe was scheduled to play Jakob

Hlasek of Switzerland in the last quarterfinal match.

Srejber, 23, was ranked 27th in the world last year, and Connors eighth.

Srejber had 22 service winners to Connors' nine and won the match by rushing the net, 50 times to 12 for the veteran lefthander. Srejber also had nine aces.

Mayotte, 26, ranked 14th in the world last year, will next play Srejber in one of Saturday's semis. Mansdorf, 21, who has won once in his two-year pro career, meets the winner of the McEnroe-Hlasek quarterfinal.

Mayotte took the first set, 7-6 in a 7-1 tiebreaker after the two followed service to 6-6. The Czech took a 5-0 lead in the tiebreaker before Mansdorf scored his only point. Novacek finished the job with a love game for 6-1, and then fired his eighth ace of the set for the final point.

Mansdorf completed his comeback in the one-hour, 55-minute match by winning the third set, 6-4.

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Mexican currency breaks 1000 to the dollar barrier

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Mexican peso, which was valued at 26 to the U.S. dollar just five years ago, tumbled to more than 1,000 to the dollar on the free market.

Exchange houses in Mexico City on Friday were demanding 1,003 pesos for customers wanting to purchase a dollar and giving 989 for those wanting to trade a dollar on the free market.

Despite the latest deterioration, there were no reports of Mexicans lining up to buy dollars before their national currency deteriorated further.

In El Paso, Texas, Mr. Eric Adams, senior vice president in the international department of First City National Bank, said the arrival of the peso at the 1,000 exchange rate "is just a midway point of things to come."

The federal treasury department said in a statement last month on banking policy in 1987 that the peso would devalue at a rate equal to inflation, reaching 1,540 to the dollar in December. That projection was based on an inflation target of 70 per cent for this year.

The private sector Economic Studies Centre, an economic research group, predicted that the peso would decline to 1,700 to 1,800 to the dollar by the end of the year.

The declining currency has improved the position of Mexican exports, but has boosted the prices of imported goods needed for manufacturing, adding to the nation's soaring inflation rate. That rate reached a record 105.7 per cent for 1986.

For Mexican consumers, the weak peso has made imported goods and foreign trips much more expensive and out of reach for many.

Interest rates in Brazil soar to new record level

SAO PAULO (R) — Brazilian interest rates soared 130 percentage points last week to 580 per cent, fueling concern that the country could face a recession, economic analysts said Friday.

Rates on short-term bank certificates of deposit started the week at 450 per cent and climbed to an all-time high of 580 per cent. Bankers and economic analysts said the dizzy rise was set to continue.

One financial analyst in Sao Paulo said: "Everything indicates that the rise will continue because of the expectation of high inflation."

He predicted that inflation in February alone would be in the range of 18 to 20 per cent.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Jan. 31, '87 and ending Wednesday, Feb. 2, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Bank	750	1588	2.160	2.120	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	3837	8119	2.110	2.110	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	10794	18279	1.690	1.670	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	12138	15172	1.230	1.250	1.000
Housing Bank	500	760	1.520	1.520	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	9434	156906	17.100	16.300	5.000
Arab Bank	950	121973	130.000	127.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	6609	16198	2.450	2.450	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	14700	10061	0.680	0.690	1.000
Islamic Investment House	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	17092	15583	1.410	1.420	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	129443	35868	0.740	0.730	1.000
National Financial Investments	5550	7354	1.300	1.380	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	4663	2738	0.600	0.600	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	505	465	0.940	0.920	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	50	1050	21.000	21.000	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	7616	22340	2.900	2.930	1.000
REFOCO Life Insurance	1759	1463	0.820	0.830	1.000
Jordan Insurance	350	350	11.000	11.000	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	2875	2627	0.800	0.920	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	1500	1485	0.970	1.000	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	1600	1634	1.000	1.020	1.000
Arabian Seas Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	10250	9508	0.900	0.930	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	4800	6032	1.270	1.260	1.000
Petra Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	6875	5407	0.830	0.790	1.000
Universal Insurance	7450	5066	0.680	0.680	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al-Zahra Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	8518	13694	1.650	1.500	1.000
Services and industries					
Darco for Housing and Investment	61859	38605	0.590	0.630	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Agarco)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Management and Consultancy	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	1800	1169	0.620	0.650	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	2700	459	0.660	0.670	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	3500	1600	0.960	0.950	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	5550	8103	1.460	1.460	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	28246	11571	0.410	0.410	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	2982	13419	4.500	4.500	1.000
Garage National Shipping Lines	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	3350	1873	0.380	0.330	1.000
Jordan Dairy	11022	12681	1.150	1.150	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	10485	21766	2.070	2.080	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	194205	153217	0.730	0.820	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	3565	8362	2.300	2.400	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	2888	3989	1.370	1.400	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	475	2170	4.500	4.580	1.000
Aladdin Industries	24850	22804	0.920	0.920	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	255415	359227	1.580	1.450	1.000
Jordan Woollen Mills	7256	28976	4.200	3.950	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	—	—	—	—	1.000
Chemical industries					
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	500	220	0.450	0.440	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	2463	3328	1.350	1.350	1.000
National Steel Industries	50321	95172	1.910	1.930	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	1250	973	0.780	0.780	1.000
General Mining	8610	14637	1.700	1.700	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	6195	41955	6.780	6.770	5.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	3036	638	0.220	0.210	1.000
National Investment	3121	6540	0.650	0.650	1.000
Arab Paper Conversion and Trading	1150	322	0.280	0.280	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	100	97	0.970	0.970	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	7115	8599	1.200	1.210	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	415	950	2.300	2.300	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	2700	1080	0.400	0.400	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Fumeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Wooden Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	296	480	1.630	1.620	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	57	604	10.600	10.600	5.000
Jordan Brewery	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	283051	277498	0.880	1.040	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	30307	17284	0.570	0.570	1.000
Jordan Industrial Investment Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Sulphur Chemicals	776699	1298289	1.740	1.960	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	241644	217967	0.850	0.920	1.000
Grand total	2,315,335	3,155,135	—	—	—

West ups military spending

WASHINGTON (AP) — Military spending by rich industrial countries has increased in the 1980s to an average of 4.3 per cent of their incomes, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reports.

The figure compares with 2.8 per cent spent on the military by poor nations during the period, according to an analysis by the fund's bureau of statistics in the current issue of its publication IMF Survey.

"The difference is mainly attributable to defence spending by the United States," which amounted to six per cent of its gross domestic product, or total income, in 1984, the report said.

The report made no report on the Soviet Union, which is not a member of the IMF. Dr. John Hardt, a specialist on Soviet affairs for the Library of Congress, said in an interview that since 1976 the Soviet Union has been spending about 14 to 16 per cent of its total production on its military establishment.

The latest figures available for

most countries in the fund's new government financial statistics yearbook are from 1984. The U.S. figure for that year was \$218 billion, just under 25 per cent of U.S. government spending.

For the fiscal year beginning next Oct. 1 President Ronald Reagan's administration has asked \$312 billion for military spending, a little more than 30 per cent of the total U.S. government budget. In 1978 American military spending was 21 per cent, according to the fund's figures.

Among the industrial countries in 1984 the second largest budget proportion going to the military was allotted by Switzerland, 10.25 per cent, the IMF said, followed by West Germany with 9.21 per cent.

It said France's military budget

was 7.35 per cent in 1983, and that the most recent figures of both West Germany and France differed little from their 1978 proportions.

Detailed figures were not given for Britain after 1979, when the proportion was said to have been 14.14 per cent. Figures for Japan are not furnished at all.

Jordan spent 28 per cent

The IMF report said Yugoslavia spent just under 55 per cent of its budget on the military in 1985, and that in 1984 the United Arab Emirates spent 45 per cent, Israel and Jordan nearly 28 per cent, and Egypt more than 17 per cent.

For the poor countries, the fund reported a steady downward trend in military spending for the 10 years ending in 1984.

"In industrial countries, a downward trend in the second half of the 1970s was succeeded by a broadly-based upward trend, which occurred in 15 out of 18 countries," the report said.

EC, U.S. trade ties may worsen

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Community (EC) and the United States face stormy trade relations, despite the recent settling of a trans-Atlantic grain dispute, the EC's top trade official said Friday.

The trade outlook "does not look encouraging," Mr. Willy De Clercq, the EC's external trade commissioner, said in remarks in the West Belgian city of Ghent.

Mr. De Clercq said the trade in farm produce "will remain the source of major difficulties." Despite EC efforts to cut farm spending, he said, the United States "will continue attacking our policy of export subsidies."

Trade in high-tech manufactured goods, Mr. De Clercq said, will "become an added source of friction as competition increases. We can already see that with Airbus, where the Americans accuse us of violating the rules" of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

He said Washington was trying "to prevent our industry from gaining a foothold in the aviation market."

In an 11th-hour accord, the EC and Washington last week settled a dispute over U.S. exports of feed grains to Spain averting a potentially devastating trade war. The four-year agreement will

lower duties on a number of U.S. exports and assure continued access for U.S. corn and sorghum to Spain.

Mr. De Clercq, the EC negotiator in the dispute, later criticised what he called "Washington's 'Rambo method' of negotiation."

On Friday, he said, "threats have become the standard method" of negotiation by the United States. He warned against protectionism in Congress, saying "the Americans must remember the disastrous effect the Smoot-Hawley (tariff act) had on the world's economy in the 1930s."

Murdoch gains control of big media group, triumphs in London confrontation

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — After a two-month struggle, international media magnate Rupert Murdoch gained control Saturday of the Herald and Weekly Times, Australia's largest media group.

The Herald and Weekly Times board announced it had sold two of its television stations and its broadcasting holdings and some smaller newspapers to rival bidders.

John Fairfax Ltd., and businessman Kerry Stokes for 490 Australian dollars (\$320 million). Fairfax had mounted counter bid for the group to Mr. Murdoch's 2.35 billion Australian-dollar (\$1.55 billion) offer. But Fairfax agreed to end its offer and several legal actions after gaining the Channel 7 station in Melbourne.

Murdoch's News Ltd., with 70 per cent of the Herald stock, is expected to take control of the media group this week.

The Herald and Weekly Times' main newspapers are the Melbourne Herald, the Melbourne Sun News-Pictorial, the Adelaide Advertiser and the Brisbane Courier-Mail.

Mr. Murdoch had previously agreed to sell the West Australian to investor Robert Holmes A.

Court, who bid against Murdoch for the whole group.

The sale of Herald-owned Channel 7 television stations in Melbourne and Adelaide apparently removed legal obstacles to the takeover.

Mr. Murdoch as an American citizen is prevented by Australian law from owning more than 15 per cent of a television station.

Mr. Murdoch took American citizenship to buy the six-station Fox Television network because of similar U.S. laws. He is expected to sell his remaining stations in Sydney and Melbourne to conform to Australian law.

Saturday's deal ends the biggest corporate takeover battle in Australian history.

Strike ends in London

Meanwhile, a bitter 13-month-long strike against Mr. Murdoch's Wapping newspaper plant in London ended Friday when the second print union pulled out of the dispute.

The National Graphical Association's decision came just 24 hours after the leadership council of the larger, 206,000-member Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (SOGAT) voted to end its

strike.

The National Graphical Association (NGA) announcement said its 30-member national council had voted "with the greatest reluctance" not to continue the confrontation with Murdoch's News International Company, which publishes the Times, the Sun, and the weeklies Sunday Times and News of the World.

However, some local chapter officials of the NGA vowed to continue picketing Wapping and criticised SOGAT's general secretary, Mr. Brenda Dean. Branch officials stuck banners to the union's headquarters in Bedford, 74 kilometres north of London, which read: "Dean sold out."

News International offered compensation to fired print workers worth a total of £58 million (\$87 million), which gives workers a month's pay for each of service up to a maximum of £888 (\$1,333) a month.

Mr. Tony Dubbins, NGA general secretary, said the SOGAT decision was a "very major factor" in his union's decision.

The union represents 20 per cent of the 5,500 production workers involved in the dispute.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEB. 8, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today is by far your best time to get anything of a worthwhile and constructive nature attended to. Control your temper and avoid dangerous arguments.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Your newspaper can give you excellent ideas and suggestions, so read carefully. Avoid those who irritate you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You are inspired with good ideas for your advancement, but carry through with them wisely.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Analysis of your finest desires should be followed with a good plan for gaining them now.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Find the right way to please the one you love. Make important decisions now.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A good pal can be of real assistance in an enthusiastic way, but later others are too busy with their own affairs.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) The morning is fine for gaining the benefits you need. If possible, be more self-reliant now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An ideal time for garnering data you can use in the future. Don't go off on any tangents that could spoil things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Do whatever will please your mate and avoid a tense situation later. Establish more harmony at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) An outside affair can bring a fine opportunity to advance, but don't make any changes in contracts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can state your views to one who works by your side, but don't try to convince anyone else.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can plan how to have a good time in the days ahead. Be happy with your mate tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can improve the situation at home in the morning, but don't make any changes. Drive carefully.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be anxious to learn and should be given as fine an education as possible. There will be so many changes and situations arising during this lifetime that a firm foundation is important, so give good ethical training. Don't force your progeny into your profession.

THE Daily Crossword

by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

1 Removed the center

6 Image

10 Overlives

14 Relax

15 "— Rhythm"

16 Stoned

17 Kar, poker hand?

19 Polson

20 Curling mark

21 Ceramic piece

22 Paddy plant

23 Walking stick

24 Irrigated

27 Hemingway epithet

30 Accommodate

32 Always

33 In flight

37 Sully or Ayn

38 Sealing substance

40 Sortie

41 Final

43 —-ling

44 —-no de Janeiro's capital

47 Robert —

48 Monks

51 Roman road

53 Gannet

54 Ancient language

55 Poem

58 Roadhouse

59 Anaheim dessert?

62 B. wine city

63 Poem

64 Makes money

65 Actor Conroy

66 Finds the stem

67 Wipe out

DOWN

1 Small wagon

2 Haulboy

3 Kar —

4 Ob. letter

5 River deposit

6 Headband

7 Chalk and

8 Lullaby type

9 Old Eng. letter

10 Ch. stranger?

11 Walk — (be elated)

12 Shift in pain

13 Spirited horse

15 5-dollar bill

23 Me-no in St. Louis?

24 Legal paper

25 High nest var.

26 Fishin

27 Machu Picchu

28 Of grand-parents

29 Confined

31 Horse opera

34 Sore

35 Baseball team

36 Border

38 Penny wench

39 Indiana

42 Cambridge school letters

45 Houston players

46 Type type

48 Silhouette

49 Steel

50 Nile city

52 Hoet

54 Mild oath

55 Gumbo

57 Being Lit.

59 Ecclesiastical

60 Bend the head

61 Swiss river

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1. RIVER

2. BAY

3. HILL

4. MOUNTAIN

5. LAKE

6. COUNTRY

7. CITY

8. STATE

9. NATION

10. WORLD

11. UNIVER

Filipino rebels declare end to 60-day ceasefire

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Communist rebels on the Philippines' two largest islands on Saturday declared an end to the 60-day ceasefire with the government, while President Corazon Aquino led thousands of her countrymen in a prayer for peace.

The announcement by the National Democratic Front (NDF) chapters in Northern Luzon and Northern Mindanao was preceded by a rebel attack on an army camp in the northern province of Kalinga Apayao on Friday that left five soldiers dead and five wounded.

The government-run Philippine News Agency (PNA) quoted the northern region's military commander, Brig-Gen. Manuel S. Avila, as saying he would launch "full-scale operations" against the rebels after the ceasefire formally lapses Sunday.

Guerrilla leaders in Northern Mindanao, the country's second-largest island after Luzon, announced in a letter to the local bishop that they were "abandoning further talks."

Brig-Gen. Mariano Adale, military commander for Mindanao based in the city of Cagayan de Oro, 800 kilometres south east of Manila, immediately placed his troops on alert to forestall possible rebel attacks.

The NDF, the Communist umbrella organisation, withdrew from peace talks with the govern-

ment on Jan. 30 after a month of fruitless negotiations to end the 18-year insurgency.

The chief government negotiator, Teofisto Guingona, said in a radio interview Saturday that the government would continue to pursue negotiations with the rebels at the provincial or regional level.

Northern Mindanao was among the places where the government had hoped to be able to continue peace talks if the negotiations and ceasefire broke down at the national level.

Mrs. Aquino did not make any direct reference to the collapse of the peace talks and the ceasefire when she addressed a later afternoon religious rally marking the 50th anniversary of the 1937 International Eucharistic Congress in Manila.

"Let us all pray that a permanent and honourable peace may still come to our land ... (and that) we do not give in to the impulses of anger and despair," Mrs. Aquino told about 10,000 devotees gathered at the seaside Rizal Park.

"I ask you to pray for me that

as I lead, it is always in the right direction and that I might always be sensitive to the urgings of the spirit inside me."

In a speech Friday, Armed Forces Chief Gen. Fidel Ramos said the military will respect regional ceasefire agreements that the government manages to work out in the coming weeks but will take punitive action against "hard-headed and stubborn" rebels elsewhere.

"If they continue to violate our laws and the ceasefire agreement itself, we are ready to hit them hard," he said.

In a paid advertisement in the Manila newspaper *Malaya*, the National Democratic Front's Northern Luzon chapter accused the government of trying to force the rebels to surrender instead of finding solutions to the country's problems during peace talks last month.

"And so, today, we declare an end to the ceasefire in Northern Luzon," said the statement.

The NDF is the Communist rebel umbrella organisation that signed the Nov. 27 ceasefire accord that went into effect at noon on Dec. 10.

Talks aimed at settling the 18-year insurgency began on Jan. 6 but were indefinitely suspended on Jan. 22, and the NDF announced eight days later that it was withdrawing from the negotiations.

Some U.S. citizens, citing smugglers' threats to kill five Americans for every Colombian extradited, said they were sending their families out of the country. Others were keeping their children at home and canceling social engagements or hiring private guards for fear of kidnapping.

An estimated 5,000 Americans live in Colombia.

Liberace 'was exposed to deadly virus'

PALM SPRINGS, California (AP) — Liberace's body was released to a funeral home after the coroner completed an autopsy to test for AIDS, while published reports Saturday said the flamboyant entertainer had tested positive for exposure to the deadly virus while hospitalized.

The autopsy results on the pianist who died at home Wednesday at age 67 were expected to be announced Saturday. The cause of death was expected to be determined positively by Monday, officials said.

The death certificate filed by Liberace's personal physician, Dr. Ronald Daniels, had listed the cause of death as heart failure brought on by subacute encephalopathy, a brain inflammation caused by viral diseases.

But Riverside County Coroner Raymond Carrillo refused to sign the death certificate and rejected the cause of death pending the autopsy, which involved tissue testing because the body already had been embalmed and had no blood.

The autopsy was completed Friday evening and Liberace's body was immediately released to Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills, coroner's spokesman Bill Sandoval said early Saturday.

Sabas Rosas, a Riverside County coroner's supervisor, told the Los Angeles Times that a test done for exposure to the AIDS virus on a sample of Liberace's blood "came back positive."

Such a result would indicate he had been exposed to the virus and not necessarily that he had AIDS.

Reagan asks Congress to repeal ABM test ban

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan has asked Congress to repeal its ban on testing of satellite-killing weapons and to release funds for production of a chemical bomb known as the Bigeye.

The White House said the proposal was intended to "remove unnecessary congressional restrictions on presidential authority."

For more than a year, the Reagan administration has been barred by Congress from testing anti-satellite weapons. Mr. Reagan has complained the restriction has tied his hand in arms negotiations with the Soviet Union.

The restriction on funds for the Bigeye chemical bomb was imposed because of technical problems with the weapon. The army now says they are being cleared up.

In addition, Mr. Reagan asked repeal of restrictions on establishment of a research and development centre for the Star War missile defence plan, also known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI). The action would permit use of currently available Pentagon funds for the operation of a centre.

The Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman on Friday told President Reagan that changing the U.S. interpretation of the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty would provoke a constitutional confrontation.

Senator Sam Nunn, an opposition Democrat, made his remarks in a letter that followed reports the Reagan administration is considering altering its interpretation of the treaty so that "Star Wars" test could go ahead.

The senator said any change in the U.S. interpretation of the ABM pact should be made only after a "thorough consultative process, including extensive discussions with the Congress and with our allies."

The treaty sharply limits testing and deployment of defences against nuclear-missile attack. A new interpretation of the treaty could permit some testing of components for the SDI.

China steps up fight against Western ideas

PEKING (R) — The Communist Party Saturday ordered China's one billion people to study the official line on "bourgeois liberalism" and said notions of why pro-Western ideas must be combated would be posted in all villages and factories.

The New China News Agency said the party had called for a nationwide publicity campaign to stop the spread of "bourgeois liberalism," a term used to denounce Western ideas of freedom and democracy blamed for causing student unrest last December.

The new directive stresses basic party principles, which include the unchallenged leadership of the party, and citizens' rights, the agency said.

It did not elaborate on the directive, but said it would "strengthen people's awareness of the constitution and the meaning of leadership" and safeguard political stability and unity while combating bourgeois liberalism.

The campaign against bourgeois liberalism has so far led to the removal of party chief Hu Yaobang and the expulsion of three top intellectuals accused of opposing party principles.

Sri Lankan troops kill 4 rebels in Jaffna

COLOMBO (R) — Four guerrillas were killed and nine people were injured when Sri Lankan soldiers launched their second offensive within a month in Jaffna, the northern separatist stronghold, military officials said Saturday.

They said troops flushed the rebels from bunkers near the road leading to Pallaly, the main military airport in the Jaffna peninsula, 330 kilometres from Colombo.

Mortar bombs, rocket-propelled grenades and artillery,

which rebels used to attack Pallaly and Vasavilan camps, were recovered, the government's media centre said.

The soldiers cleared the area of booby traps and claymore mines and filled ditches so vehicles could proceed, officials said.

Four rebels died and six more were injured. Three soldiers who were wounded were flown to Colombo for medical treatment, they added.

In another move Friday, soldiers cleared several rebel bunkers north of a clinic occupied by

Nicaragua drafts new recruits to fight contras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Contra rebels have increased their numbers inside Nicaragua by slipping into that country from southern Honduras in recent weeks with new supplies from the United States, a rebel leader said.

Fighting with leftist Sandinista troops has increased, especially in the northern and central Nicaraguan provinces, said Indalecio Rodriguez, one of the seven directors of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the largest contra fighting group.

Meanwhile, Nicaragua's army has begun drafting new recruits to help battle U.S.-backed rebels, military officials said.

Men aged 17 to 23 are being called to report for compulsory military service as part of annual conscriptions introduced in 1983, after the rebels began launching attacks from neighbouring Hon-

duras.

This year's draft comes amid rebel claims they have taken the initiative in the war following U.S. approval last year of \$100 million in mainly-military aid to them.

The rebels said they had infiltrated 6,000 fighters deep into Nicaragua. Nicaragua says the rebels pose no serious threat and there are no more than 3,000 inside Nicaragua.

Military officials declined to say how many recruits would be drafted this year. "That is a military secret," one said.

The government's *Barricada* newspaper said "thousands" were signing up in Managua and the response was enthusiastic.

Nicaragua has the largest army in Central America, with around 60,000 regulars and some 100,000 reservists.

U.S. to send emergency food aid to Mozambique

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States will send about 150,000 metric tons of emergency food aid to Mozambique this fiscal year to help the Maputo government deal with an emergency caused by continuing civil strife and drought, the State Department said.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the U.S. ambassador to Mozambique, Peter de Vos, declared last month that a disaster exists in Mozambique primarily as a result of civil strife and secondarily because of drought and its residual impact.

"Our mission in Maputo, in consultation with the government of Mozambique as well as international and private organisations in Mozambique, has estimated that 3.5 million Mozambicans are at risk of starvation due to the Renamo insurgency and drought, and that another 2.2 million who depend on urban food markets may also be affected because of disrupted food supply channels," Mr. Redman said.

He noted that Michael Armato, under secretary of state for political affairs, said during testimony before Congress on Feb. 5 that the United States is "in process providing approximately 150,000 metric tons of PL-480 Title II emergency food assistance during this fiscal year, which was the amount requested by our ambassador."

"We are also working with the government of Mozambique, other donors and private organisations to ensure that the needs of persons at risk are met in a timely manner," Mr. Redman said.

Pretoria threatening Botswana

GABORONE (R) — President Quett Masire said Saturday South Africa had threatened to take "whatever measures they considered necessary" against Botswana for allegedly harbouring two black nationalist guerrillas.

A statement from Mr. Masire's office said South Africa, upon whom landlocked Botswana is almost totally dependent economically, made the threat in a message teleaxed on Friday.

It said Pretoria had earlier telephoned Botswana officials saying

Botswana had allowed African National Congress (ANC) members Jacob Zuma and Lambert Moloi to attend a meeting in Gaborone of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), which ended Friday.

Mr. Zuma was the ANC's chief representative in Mozambique until his expulsion to Zambia along with five other officials last month after Pretoria said the men threatened its security.

Western diplomats said it was not clear if the directive indicated the campaign would expand beyond the limits defined by New Party Chief Zhao Ziyang, who has said the drive will only affect party members and not spread to rural areas.

"The decision (to step up legal education) is a powerful weapon in combating bourgeois liberalisation" and upholding party principles, the document said. All party members should "master the weapon and use it in the struggle against acts in violation of the constitution and the law."

Children linked to satanic cult

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (R) — Police have said they suspected six ragged children found in a city park here were held by members of a satanic cult involving child abuse. Two men taken into custody on Wednesday along with the filthy, insect-bitten children have been charged with child abuse and were ordered held on \$100,000 bail. The police said evidence, including photographs of animal sacrifice, apparently linked the men and children to a satanic cult based in Washington. A television news network said slides showing satanic rituals, torture and sexually explicit acts involving children were also found in a warehouse belonging to the cult. The children, ranging in age from two to seven, were handed to state social workers and subjected to extensive medical tests. Police said they believe the children were turned over to the cult by their parents as the price for membership. Tallahassee Police spokesman Scott Hunt said medical tests showed at least one of the children, a seven-year-old girl, had been sexually abused. The suspects told detectives the four boys and two girls were being "weaned" from their mothers and taken to Mexico to a school for brilliant children, police said.

Seminary to ordain women cantors

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's leading seminary for Judaism's conservative branch says it will certify women as cantors to lead services among the movement's 1 million congregants. The Jewish Theological Seminary's announcement came two years after it ordained its first woman rabbi. Although the seminary has issued bachelor's degrees in sacred music to women, it has only issued cantorial certificates to men. Unlike rabbis, who are viewed as teachers, cantors represent congregations in prayer. The main objection to women as cantors had been that women are not obligated to perform all of the Bible's 613 commandments, said Ismar Schorsch, the seminary's chancellor.

Former hostage to teach at seminary

SAN ANSELMO, California (AP) — The Rev. Benjamin Weir, who was a hostage in Lebanon for 16 months, has accepted a full-time teaching post at a seminary. Weir's wife, Carol, also accepted a teaching position at the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo. The Weirs each hold a master's degree in Christian Education from the seminary.

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NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's leading seminary for Judaism's conservative branch says it will certify women as cantors to lead services among the movement's 1 million congregants. The Jewish Theological Seminary's announcement came two years after it ordained its first woman rabbi. Although the seminary has issued bachelor's degrees in sacred music to women, it has only issued cantorial certificates to men. Unlike rabbis, who are viewed as teachers, cantors represent congregations in prayer. The main objection to women as cantors had been that women are not obligated to perform all of the Bible's 613 commandments, said Ismar Schorsch, the seminary's chancellor.

Former hostage to teach at seminary

SAN ANSELMO, California (AP) — The Rev. Benjamin Weir, who was a hostage in Lebanon for 16 months, has accepted a full-time teaching post at a seminary. Weir's wife, Carol, also accepted a teaching position at the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo. The Weirs each hold a master's degree in Christian Education from the seminary.

COLUMNS 7&8

Convict hangs himself

CARSON CITY (R) — A convicted murderer was found dead in his cell in an apparent suicide, one day after the Nevada supreme court blocked his wish to be executed, a prison official said. Dennis Nogue, 26, was found hanging by a nylon rope taken from a laundry bag, a warden of the state's maximum security prison said. The rope was tied to a window. He was sentenced to die by lethal injection on March 4 for the strangulation death of a friend, but the supreme court on Wednesday stayed the execution pending a review of the case. "He has a taste of prison life and can't foresee spending the rest of his life there," a deputy sheriff told reporters following the court's ruling. Nogue was jailed in 1977 after killing a fisherman. After the 1986 slaying of a friend he requested his own execution. Nogue waived his right to an appeal of the death sentence, but the court blocked the execution while lawyers reviewed whether the waiver was proper.

Pharaoh's statue leaves for U.S.

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — A 3,000-year-old granite statue of the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses II set sail for an exhibition in the United States. The 60-tonne statue, the largest monument to leave Egypt in recent years, was cut into three parts to facilitate shipment and will be reassembled on reaching its destination at Memphis, Tennessee — named after the ancient pharaonic capital. The statue, discovered in 1961 in Meit Rahina, south of Cairo, has been insured for \$1.5 million and will join 70 other pieces of antiquity to be shown in Memphis. The huge colossus of the King who ruled Egypt from 1290 to 1224 B.C. was carried on trailers to this Mediterranean port for loading onto the French vessel *Aquila* to Marseille, France. It will be transferred there to the U.S. vessel *Enterprise* bound for Savannah, Georgia and a 16-hour road journey to Memphis. The Egyptian Antiquities Department hopes that ticket sales for the exhibit will yield about \$10 million. Proceeds will be used to restore other Egyptian monuments.

Paul Simon removed from blacklist

NEW YORK (USIA) — The U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid has removed singer-song writer Paul Simon from its list of musicians, artists and athletes who have violated a U.N. sponsored cultural boycott of South Africa. In a statement released on Feb. 5, the committee said Simon has written to the committee pledging that he does not intend to perform in South Africa while apartheid prevails. After receiving this assurance, the committee decided not to put Simon's name on its "register of entertainers, actors and others who have performed in apartheid South Africa." In 1985, Simon recorded five songs on his album *Graceland* with black musicians in South Africa. Simon has argued that *Graceland* helped give worldwide exposure to the music of black South Africans who would not otherwise receive such exposure. Critics, while acknowledging that Simon did not perform in public while in South Africa, argue that the Pretoria government can use the album as an example of international acceptance of South African culture.

Man dies after gunfight with police

LONDON (R) — A member of an armed gang died in hospital after being shot by police outside a London museum, police said. Police fired on six men after they were seen entering the Sir John Soanes Museum in central London evening. One, who was armed with a shotgun, died in hospital after undergoing surgery. He was 26. Another man, 22, was shot in the arm. Four others, all in their 20s, were arrested. The Sir John Soanes Museum, home of the 19th century architect, contains a number of masterpieces, including Hogarth's "Rake's Progress," as well as works by Canaletto, Turner and classical sculpture, gems and architectural drawings. The shooting was the second in a week involving the police and took place three days after the Home Office (Interior Ministry) issued new, stricter guidelines on the use of guns by the police. In an incident on Feb. 3, two men were shot in the stomach by police during an alleged raid on a gun shop north of London.

Brazilian mob sets fire to prison

SAO PAULO, Brazil (R) — A mob of about 1,000 people beat two youths to death after setting fire to a prison where the two were being held on rape and robbery charges, police said. The incident in the southern state of Parana was the latest in a series of mob killings in recent months as the country continues to suffer from widespread crime. Police said the youths, aged 16 and 18, had robbed a hotel on Wednesday night and raped the owner's wife in front of guests and her seven-year-old daughter. After the crowd set fire to the prison in the town of Ubitara, the two youths fled but were later caught and beaten to death.

Children linked to satanic cult

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK92 ♠82 ♣AQ104 ♣KQJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ95 ♠KQJ82 ♣9763
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠1064 ♠Q983 ♣K5 ♣A72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Double ?
What action do you take?
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQJ52 ♠7 ♠98 ♠A1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
What action do you take?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K763 ♠9842 ♠72 ♠AJS
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q109 ♠73 ♠97642 ♠QJ63
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Double ?
What action do you take?